



Scan the QR code to access
the Arab Times WhatsApp Channel

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025 / RABI AL-THANI 17, 1447 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 19022

16 PAGES

150 FILS

Amir receives UAE President, accompanying delegation



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives President of UAE Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.



Amiri Diwan photos

Gulf unity tops high-level talks

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and in the presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received the visiting President of UAE Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and his accompanying delegation.

During the reception, both sides touched on the bilateral ties between the two countries and emphasizing the importance of consolidating the frameworks of bilateral cooperation between in a way that serves their mutual interests, especially in the economic and development fields.

His Highness the Amir and Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed affirmed support to all initiatives and efforts aimed at establishing the foundations of comprehensive and just peace based on the two-state solution and a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip to achieve security and stability in the region.

Continued on Page 5

One serious traffic offense can end expat's residency

New law cuts violations by 53%, fatalities by 75%: Brig. Gen. Al-Qattouan

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Director of the General Traffic Department, Brigadier General Saad Al-Qattouan, stated that 35 court rulings were issued over the past three months, including 11 imprisonment sentences and 24 fines. Among the most notable penalties were two months of imprisonment, a one-year driver's license suspension, a KD 1,000 fine, and deportation from the country.

In an exclusive interview with the daily, Brig. Gen. Al-Qattouan revealed that 15 individuals were deported following the implementation of the new traffic law during May, June, and July.

He clarified that the deportation of an expatriate for committing a serious traffic violation is carried out after an investigation and review of their driving record, and is not dependent on whether the offense is repeated.

Brig. Gen. Al-Qattouan emphasized that parents bear major responsibility in supervising their underage children and must not allow them to drive vehicles, as this exposes them to legal accountability.

He explained that the department carries out continuous campaigns to apprehend minors found driving and refers them to the Public Prosecution for legal action. During the month of August alone, 232 minors were caught driving. They were referred to the Juvenile Prosecution, traffic citations were registered against them, and the vehicles were impounded in accordance with Article

207.

Brig. Gen. Al-Qattouan went on to explain that expatriates' driving licenses are revoked if they no longer meet the requirements stipulated in Ministerial Decision No. 270/2020, which governs the issuance of private driving licenses to non-Kuwaitis. These requirements include holding legal residency in Kuwait for at least two years, earning a minimum monthly salary of KD 600, and possessing a university degree. However, there are 12 exempt categories that are not subject to the residency, salary, or degree conditions.

He added that expatriates are issued driving licenses valid for five years for vehicles and motorcycles, in accordance with Article 85.

Brig. Gen. Al-Qattouan explained that the General Traffic Department has achieved several milestones, including the implementation of the amended traffic law, the transition to digital services, and the improvement of the driving test process through upgraded testing fields and specially equipped vehicles with cameras. The department has also strengthened its security and monitoring systems.

Below is the full interview with Brigadier General Saad Al-Qattouan:

Question: What are the main achievements of the General Traffic Department in the recent period?

Answer: There are many, such as the issuance of the amended traffic law and the digital transformation of various services such as license issuance, vehicle registration renewal, and appointment booking for driving tests.

The department also upgraded driving test fields, introduced dedicated test vehicles, and enhanced its security and monitoring systems through improved surveillance and traffic enforcement cameras. Also, periodic vehicle inspections have been modernized using an integrated system with electronic testing devices.

Continued on Page 5

Summary orders go digital, cutting Kuwait court delays

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Cabinet has approved a legislative amendment to the Criminal Procedures and Trials Law concerning the "summary order" system, allowing courts to issue rulings in minor cases entirely through electronic means.

The updated system covers all stages from receiving requests and deliberating, to issuing and announcing judgments, all digitally.

This step is a major move toward

electronic justice in Kuwait with the aim of expediting case resolutions and significantly easing the burden on courts and litigants.

The summary order is a judicial decision issued in simple cases such as minor misdemeanors and violations where the penalty involves a fine. It eliminates the need for a public trial or witness testimonies and is based solely on reviewing the case documents. Judges issue the ruling in a simplified format without traditional court proceedings.

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

AMMAN: Health ministers from Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states gathered in the Jordanian capital on Wednesday for routine talks aiming to ratchet up healthcare cooperation within the Jeddah-based bloc.

The talks, the first such gathering after the COVID pandemic, aim to bolster healthcare cooperation among Arab and Islamic countries, Kuwait's ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom **Hamad Al-Meri** told KUNA, citing these meetings as instrumental in building resilient healthcare systems.(KUNA)

GAZA: At least 10 Palestinians were killed and 61 others were injured by the Israeli occupation forces during the past 24 hours in the Gaza Strip, said health authorities Wednesday.

In a report, the health authorities affirmed there are still a number of victims under the rubble and on the streets, and ambulance and civil defense crews are unable to reach them.

This brings the death toll from the Israeli aggression to 67,183 and injuries to 169,841 since October 7, 2023. (KUNA)

ZainTECH in collaboration with Zain Kuwait and ZOI, partner with Microsoft to accelerate government digital transformation in Kuwait



ABK wins five prestigious awards from Global Finance



Left: Arab Times Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah during a meeting with the delegation from the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Dubai. Right: Managing Editor Marlon Aquino Malinao and Online Media Manager John Fernandes with HKETO officials during discussions on expanding media and cultural cooperation.

Arab Times Editor-in-Chief meets Hong Kong trade delegates, opens new cooperation chapter

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Arab Times and Al-Seyassah Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah welcomed a high-level delegation from the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in Dubai, signaling a new chapter of engagement between Ku-

wait's media and Hong Kong's trade leaders. The visiting HKETO team, led by Director General Simon Chan, Deputy Director Jackson Wong, and Head of Public Relations Cherrie Cheung, opened discussions on deepening cooperation across news,

business, and cultural sectors.

During the meeting, Editor-in-Chief Al-Jarallah and the delegation explored ways to highlight positive developments in Hong Kong-Kuwait

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait, US ink customs and border security deal

WASHINGTON, Oct 8, (KUNA): Kuwait signed Tuesday an agreement with the United States to enhance cooperation in customs operation and border security, as well as the exchange of technical expertise.

The agreement was signed during a meeting in Washington D.C between Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and Commissioner of the US Customs and Border Protection Agency Rodney Scott, according to a statement by the Ministry of Interior.

During the meeting, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef discussed with Commissioner Scott the potential of cooperation for improving customs operation and port security.

Continued on Page 5

UN hails Kuwait's vital Gaza support

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): The crucial role played by the State of Kuwait in supporting relief aid efforts in the Gaza Strip has led to saving lives despite the appalling conditions in the war-torn enclave, said UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher, on Wednesday.

In an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) and Kuwait Television, Fletcher said that Kuwait's air bridge to the Gaza Strip was evidence of its relentless efforts to help those in need.

A partner like Kuwait, with its readiness to answer the call to save lives, is vital for global humanitarian efforts, he added, deeming the

country was a recognized "force" in the diplomatic and humanitarian domains worldwide.

The UN official said it was a "great honor" to have met the Kuwaiti political leadership during his visit, adding that exploring avenues of cooperation with Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) would enhance UN-Kuwaiti partnership.

In regard to the two-year war on the Gaza Strip, which resulted in huge human loss, casualties, and destruction, Fletcher pointed out that Kuwait had worked to ensure the flow of basic humanitarian aid to the Palestinians, especially those heavily affected by the aggression.

Continued on Page 5



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Al-Zeer Salem exacted his vengeance while alive and after his demise

Wearied from countless wars, he was determined to travel.

The two slaves, exhausted from the grueling journey, conspired to assassinate him.

"Should my death befall me, I ask that you convey my last will to my people."

"Who will notify the people of Muhahil's death ... slain, slain in the desert?"

Al-Haris ibn Abbad once said, "For the noble, blood money serves as an apology."

But when his son Jubayr was killed, he declared, "I shall slay as many in return as there are pebbles."

Refrain from passing judgment without experience, and do not criticize one who is drowning.

Many fail to grasp the true difference between pleasure and happiness.

One substance that reduces serotonin is dopamine.

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:26	Asr	14:56
Sunrise ..	05:44	Maghrib ..	17:26
Zohr	11:36	Isha	18:43

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h.
By Night: Rather hot to mild

Weather			
with light to moderate southeasterly wind changing to northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-32 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	38	27	
Kuwait Airport	39	20	
Abdaly	40	23	

Jahra	41	25
Salmiyah	36	28
Ahmadi	35	23
Nuwaisib	37	21
Wafra	40	20
Salmi	37	20
Managish	41	24

Amir receives letter from Brazil’s pres

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Wednesday a written letter from the President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, regarding ways to strengthen bilateral relations between both countries, as well as ways to enhance cooperation.

The letter also includes an invitation for His Highness to attend the Climate Summit in the Brazilian city of Belem, to be held from November 6 to 7, 2025.
Minister Al-Yahya received the letter during his reception of the Brazilian Ambassador to Kuwait Rodrigo Gabsch.



KUNA photo
The Minister of Foreign Affairs received a written letter from the President of Brazil during his meeting with the Brazilian Ambassador to Kuwait.

FM Al-Yahya receives letter from Iranian counterpart on relations

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received on Wednesday a written letter from his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi, about the bilateral relations of both countries, and the latest regional and international developments.

This came during Minister Al-Yahya’s reception of Iran’s Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Totonchi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Cabinet OK’s initial plan for 2 medical cities

New 500-bed hospitals planned for Sabah Al-Ahmad and Mutlaa

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Cabinet called on the Ministry of Health, along some government bodies, to prepare the initial plans of Sabah Al-Ahmad and Mutlaa Medical Cities, in line with global standards to offer the best healthcare services.

This was announced during the weekly Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday at Bayan Palace under the presidency of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The Cabinet saw a visual presentation submitted by Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi on the two cities’ projects, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya said in a statement after the meeting.

Sabah Al-Ahmad Medical City aims to offer services to the residents of the areas of Sabah Al-Ahmad, Wafra, Khairan and others, while Mutlaa serves the parts of Sabriya, Nawaf Al-Ahmad and more, Al-Yahya added.

The two medical cities include establishing some facilities and two hospitals of 500 beds for each, in addition to dental clinics, doctors and nurses’ housing, outpatients clinics, physical therapy and medical rehabilitation centers, medical warehouses and storage areas, dialysis units, and blood transfusion services.

The minister stressed keenness to boost the efficiency of the healthcare system, improve service quality, and develop comprehensive care.

The two projects align with Kuwait’s Vision 2035 that aim to achieve equitable and accessible of healthcare services across all governorates.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister told the



Prime Minister Diwan photo
The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah, held its weekly meeting on Tuesday.

meeting about the meetings’ results of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah with CEO of Goldman Sachs David Solomon on Monday.

During the meetings, it was confirmed that Kuwait is keen on expanding investment horizons and boosting competitiveness of entrepreneurship and building strategic partnerships with global firms in a manner that contributes to transferring

expertise, techniques.

His Highness the Prime Minister also briefed the ministers on his meeting with Managing Director of International Monterey Fund Kristalina Georgieva last Thursday during which they discussed means of boosting collaboration between both sides and benefiting from international experience in addressing economic imbalances, achieving fiscal reforms, managing financial policies, and diversifying income sources.

Kuwait calls for women’s full role in peacebuilding

Partners, not just victims, in conflict zones

NEW YORK, Oct 8, (KUNA): Kuwait affirmed on Tuesday women are not only conflicts’ victims, but also a key partner and player in making peace and building societies.

This came in a speech delivered by Kuwait’s Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Tariq Al-Bannai before a UN Security Council session on women, and international peace and security.

Empowering women is not only based on protection from violence and conflicts, but also giving them their full political, economic and social rights as well as education and healthcare, he said.

He referred to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres’ report that shed light on great challenges facing the agenda of women, peace and security 25 years after approving the UNSC Resolution No. 1325 in 2000.

He stressed the necessity of ensuring full and effective representation of women - at least one third - in all political mediation and negotiation processes in a manner that shows their real role



KUNA photo
Kuwait’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Tariq Al-Bannai, addresses a session held by the UN Security Council on women, peace and international security.

as an indispensable partner in building a more stable and fairer future.

He expressed great concern over the tangible decline in funding levels allocated to this agenda, mainly the direct funding of local female organizations - the first defense line in conflict-affected societies.

Since its independence, Kuwait believed that women are a true partner in national development, citing the country’s Constitution that ensures the rights of women.

Kuwait has adopted ambitious policies and legislations aiming to boost women’s participation in public life, he said.

Kuwait has set up the National Committee to Implement UNSC Resolution No. 1325, titled “Women, Peace and Security”, chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the country has made great successes through this committee, he pointed out.

Al-Bannai expressed appreciation to Kuwaiti and Palestinian women who made sacrifices for their societies, referring that Palestinian women are fighting for freedom, despite all types of injustice they are facing due to the Israeli occupation.

Schengen visa exemption gains support

Czech official stresses continuous development of Kuwait-Czech ties

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Czech Republic Radek Rubeš expressed his happiness over his visit to Kuwait, indicating this is his second visit to the country, following his visit two years ago to participate in bilateral meetings with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In press statement on the sidelines of the 29th Joint Ministerial Meeting between the GCC and EU in Kuwait, Rubeš praised the excellent organization of the meeting and the Kuwaiti hospitality.

He stressed that bilateral relations between the Czech Republic and Kuwait are exceptional and witnessing continuous development, adding that the two countries are working together to strengthen cooperation in various fields.

He lauded the role of Kuwait in supporting dialogue and regional stability, pointing out that the joint meeting provided an important platform for discussing regional and international issues like the Russian war on Ukraine, the humanitarian situation in Gaza, and other issues related to Iran and Iraq. He revealed that “the two sides’ views on many of these issues converge.”

Talking about the free trade agreement between the GCC and EU, he said the Czech Republic is one of the countries supporting the idea of expediting the signing and implementation of the agreement. He stressed that his country strongly believes in the principle of free trade, given its reliance on economic openness as a landlocked country.

He also confirmed Czech Republic’s support for the ongoing discussions on



Radek Rubeš, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Czech Republic.

exempting Kuwaiti citizens from the entry visa to the EU (Schengen), asserting that his country believes that freedom of movement contributes to strengthening ties between peoples and enhancing mutual cooperation.

On the Palestinian issue, he affirmed the continuous commitment of his country to support the two-state solution as the fundamental option for achieving a just and lasting peace, expressing his hope for tangible progress on this path.

He lauded the prominent humanitarian role that Kuwait plays at the regional and international levels, highlighting the potential for expanding cooperation between the two countries in the humanitarian field, particularly in addressing humanitarian crises in the Middle East and Africa.

He added the meetings held in Kuwait over the past two days were extremely fruitful, and contributed to unifying visions and strengthening the partnership between EU and GCC.

Event reflects Kingdom's commitment to dialogue

Saudi Embassy hosts diplomatic diwaniya

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Kuwait hosted its first diplomatic diwaniya of the season, with a number of diplomats and representatives of international organizations in attendance.

The event was a reflection of the depth of fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries.

It highlighted the vital role that the embassy plays in strengthening cooperation and communication between the Kingdom and the diplomatic community in Kuwait.

It was characterized by friendly exchanges in an atmosphere of mutual respect and appreciation, manifesting the commitment of Saudi Arabia to intensify its diplomatic and regional presence by organizing events that signify openness and rapprochement.

Saudi Deputy Ambassador Ahmed Al-Shehri, along with several embassy staff, warmly welcomed the guests and praised their participation in the diwaniya.

The diplomats and other guests praised the level of organization and warm welcome accorded to them, affirming that this initiative is an embodiment of the authentic values of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in terms of generosity and

hospitality, as well as the civilized image of Saudi diplomacy.

A number of ambassadors and representatives of foreign missions expressed their appreciation for the Saudi Embassy’s efforts in strengthening bridges of communication and openness with various countries, asserting that such meetings contribute to the growth of bilateral relations and enhancement of mutual understanding between peoples.



Saudi Deputy Ambassador and embassy staff welcome diplomats and international representatives at the first diplomatic diwaniya of the season, celebrating strong fraternal ties and fostering cooperation in Kuwait.

Kuwait affirms commitment to human rights and justice at UN

NEW YORK, Oct 8, (KUNA): Kuwait reaffirmed that human dignity has always been a cornerstone of its national and international approach, guided by a Constitution that upholds justice, equality, and freedom as the basis of governance.

This came in a statement delivered by Second Secretary of Kuwait’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Wafiqah Al-Mulla, during the Third Committee’s general discussions on Tuesday, highlighted national efforts to empower women, youth, children, and the elderly.

She noted women comprise 58 percent of the workforce and 28 percent of leadership roles, with growing participation in the judiciary, police, and military, supported by national committees such as the Women and Business Committee and the National Committee for implementing UNSC Resolution 1325.

On child protection, she said Kuwait established the Supreme National Committee for Child Protection, launched child support hotline 147, and enhanced reporting and response mechanisms to violence.

For the elderly, more than 36,000 benefit from free healthcare and priority services under comprehensive welfare programs.

Al-Mulla said Kuwait ranked 40th in the 2023 Youth Development Index and launched the Youth Excellence and Creativity Award. Young Kuwaitis also gained global recognition, including through the UNESCO-Jaber



KUNA photo
Wafiqah Al-Mulla, Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Al-Ahmad Prize.

She noted efforts to combat domestic violence, including a national committee, shelters, and hosting over 150 awareness workshops.

The diplomat reiterated Kuwait’s support for global efforts on social development and its participation in the upcoming World Social Summit in Doha this November.

Concluding, she condemned the ongoing Israeli occupation’s blatant violations against the Palestinian people, reaffirming Kuwait’s support for a two-state solution and the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



Al-Zeer Salem exacted his vengeance while alive and after his demise

I will not elaborate further, as the lessons here speak for themselves, and demonstrate the importance of discernment in sensitive times, the danger of offering uninformed advice, and the distinction between momentary pleasure and lasting happiness.

The following three accounts each carry a distinct message - the first highlights the virtue of prudence, the second warns against giving counsel without experience, and the third explores the illusions we often mistake for true well-being.

After four decades of conflict, Al-Zeer Salem Al-Muhalhil had aged, his posture was stooped, his hair had turned white, and the weight of countless wars had left him profoundly weary.

Determined to travel, he set out on a journey across the lands, with provisions and two slaves provided by his nephew to assist him.

As the journey wore on, the two slaves grew exhausted from the arduous trek. They secretly conspired to kill him and report his death to his family. However, Al-Muhalhil sensed their intentions. He turned to them and said, "If my death is to come, I ask that you deliver my will to my family and swear to honor and uphold it."

Upon reaching the area, recite these verses to my family:

"Who will tell the people that Al-Muhalhil has died? Well done, you have fulfilled your task."

The slaves solemnly swore to deliver the message faithfully. He repeated the two verses to them until they had committed them to memory.

When night fell, they killed him, buried his body, and returned home.

On their way back, the two slaves ran into Adi and Yamamah, the nephews of the late poet. They informed them of his death and recited the verses he had asked them to deliver.

Upon hearing the lines, Adi was taken aback and said, "My uncle never composed such weak poetry in his life."

Yamamah, the daughter of Al-Muhalhil's brother Kulaib, used to complete verses with her uncle. He would recite the first half, and she would reply with the second.

She turned to the two slaves and said, "Repeat to me exactly what my uncle said."

After he recited them again, Yamamah completed them by saying, "Who will tell the people that Al-Muhalhil has died?"

● Weary from countless wars, he was determined to travel.

● The two slaves, exhausted from the grueling journey, conspired to assassinate him.

● "Should my death befall me, I ask that you convey my last will to my people."

● "Who will notify the people of Muhahil's death... slain, slain in the desert?"

● Al-Haris ibn Abbad once said, "For the noble, blood money serves as an apology."

● But when his son Jubayr was killed, he declared, "I shall slay as many in return as there are pebbles."

● Refrain from passing judgment without experience, and do not criticize one who is drowning.

● Many fail to grasp the true difference between pleasure and happiness.

● One substance that reduces serotonin is dopamine.

"Was slain, slain in the desert."
"Well done, you have fulfilled your task."
"The two servants will not leave until they are killed."

The two slaves were arrested and subjected to severe torture and beatings until they confessed to killing Al-Muhalhil and burying him.

The two slaves were executed immediately, and thus

Al-Muhalhil had exacted his revenge both during his lifetime and after his death.



Everyone is wise ... until the story is their own.

When Wa'il ibn Rabi'ah was killed, Al-Harith ibn 'Abbad said, "Blood money for the noble is an apology." But when his own son, Jubayr, was slain, his tone changed, "I will kill for him as many as there are pebbles, stars, and grains of sand in the world."

Everyone is wise when it is not their story. Everyone is generous when it is not their wealth. Everyone is patient when it is not their calamity. Everyone is brave when it is not their battle.

Refrain from passing judgment on what you have not experienced. Do not criticize the one who is drowning while you stand safely on dry land. And do not judge others until you have walked through their storm.



The Difference Between Happiness and Pleasure

Many people struggle to understand the difference between pleasure and happiness. Pleasure is temporary, while happiness is permanent. Pleasure is rooted in the physical, while happiness comes from the spiritual. Pleasure is something you take, happiness is something you give.

You can find pleasure in harmful things like drugs or other vices, but happiness can never come from destructive things.

Pleasure is often experienced alone. Happiness, on the other hand, is shared.

While too much pleasure can lead to addiction, whether to drugs or behaviors, there is no such thing as being addicted to too much happiness.

Finally, and most importantly, pleasure comes from dopamine, and happiness from serotonin.

One of the things that lowers serotonin is an excess of dopamine. So the more you chase pleasure, the more unhappy you are likely to become.

Las Vegas, Madison Avenue, Wall Street, Silicon Valley, and Washington, D.C. have all played a role in blurring the lines between happiness and pleasure. They have confused us to the point that we believe we can buy happiness, when in fact we are certainly unhappy.

■ Sleep is a form of death. Each morning, we must thank our Lord for bringing us back to life. Therefore, every daybreak, we must thank God for the gift of life. Praise be to Allah, and may our day be easy and smooth.



■ O Allah, we entrust our souls to You, for You alone are our Protector.



■ Your Excellency, Minister of Information and Culture, and the Ministry of Tourism, I kindly urge you to intervene.



■ Farms are being prevented from hosting Kuwaitis and expatriates during the winter for enjoying and appreciating these beautiful spaces.



■ Let people enjoy these sites without restrictions, and let farm owners benefit as well. What is the problem? Kuwait is in need of many welfare projects like this.



■ The most dangerous moment is when the flow of money suddenly stops. Once that happens, everything grinds to a halt. All buying, selling, and spending all come to a standstill.



■ On the other hand, when money flows naturally, it generates prosperity and happiness, and people feel joy. As the saying goes, spending is often more important than earning.

Citizens' voices heard as authorities pledge swift action

Governor Sheikh Athbi holds productive open dialogue with Farwaniya residents

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah held an open meeting with the residents of the governorate at the Farwaniya Governorate headquarters on Monday.

This is part of the Governor's commitment to strengthen direct communication channels with citizens.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Director General of Farwaniya Municipality branch Eng. Nawaf Al-Kandari, Director of the Public Sanitation and Road Works Department at Farwaniya Municipality branch Mohammad Al-Jabaa, members of the Farwaniya Governorate Council, a number of security officials, representatives of cooperative societies and public benefit associations, dignitaries and citizens.

They discussed the needs of various areas in the governorate, and presented visions and development proposals to improve the quality of services provided to residents.

The meeting began with a welcome speech by the Governor, who emphasized that this meeting reinforces the principle of transparency and cooperation between government agencies and citizens. He considers the meeting an opportunity to listen to the comments and demands of the residents, and follow them up in coordination with the relevant authorities, in line with the efforts of the State toward sustainable development and improving the quality of life.

The problems and suggestions presented by citizens were also discussed at the meeting.

Meanwhile, Al-Kandari affirmed that the suggestions and complaints will be given due attention and addressed as quickly as possible. He said his door is open to all residents of the governorate. At the end of the meeting, the guests thanked the Governor for the warm welcome and for continuing to hold such meetings, which reflect the spirit of cooperation between citizens and officials and enhance the role of society in supporting sustainable development projects.



Sheikh Athbi Al-Sabah hosts open meeting with municipality officials to follow up on demands for improved Farwaniya residents quality of life.

Nazaha refers 2 sports officials to prosecution over false disclosures

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) referred a government official and a board member of a sports federation to the Public Prosecution, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Nazaha explained that the matter was investigated with the relevant authorities and it was found that the financial dis-

closures submitted by these two individuals contained inaccurate information. As a result, they were referred to the Public Prosecution for violating Law No. 2/2016 on the establishment of Nazaha, and the provisions governing financial disclosure, as amended by Decree-Law No. 69/2025.

Smartphone misuse charge dropped

Kuwaiti gets 5-year jail term for terror group links

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Criminal Court sentenced a Kuwaiti citizen to five-year imprisonment with hard labor and immediate enforcement after convicting him of joining and financing the banned group "Hizb ut-Tahrir", in addition to insulting Jordan and Egypt on social media.

During the session, the court heard arguments from both the prosecution and the defense. Investigations confirmed that the defendant had published posts and videos on his social media accounts promoting the extremist ideology of the group and supporting its activities financially. The content also included offensive remarks against the leaders and people of the two countries.

This verdict follows a similar ruling against the defendant's brother, who was also convicted of

joining and funding the same group both inside and outside Kuwait.

In its reasoning, the court stated that the defendant's actions posed a threat to both internal and external state security and fall under the scope of State Security Law No. 31/1970.

Also, the Criminal Court has acquitted an individual of charges related to the misuse of a smartphone, following a defense presented by Lawyer Tahani Al-Nafis.

In a separate case, the court issued a ruling to refrain from imposing punishment on an individual charged with possession of psychoactive substances. The court ordered the confiscation of the seized items and required the defendant to submit a written pledge, post a KD 500 guarantee, and maintain good conduct for two years.

In another case, after Lawyer Tahani Al-Nafis presented her defense, the Court of Cassation's

Misdemeanor Appeals Division accepted the appeal procedurally and overturned the lower court's ruling. The court suspended the prison sentence issued against her client in a theft case, without requiring bail.

Meanwhile, the Commercial Section in the Court of First Instance instructed a property owner to KD35,000 to a citizen, in addition to seven percent interest per annum from the due date until full payment, as he failed to fulfill his obligation to hand over the property sold to the citizen in 2012.

Attorney Nasser Al-Farhoud filed the case on behalf of the citizen who paid for the property through check that the defendant received. However, he refused to hand over the property and violated the terms of the contract, prompting the citizen to take legal action to demand for the amount of the check, plus interest and expenses.

Premium Diwali Sweets

10 % Discount On Pre Order

PURE DESI GHEE PREPARATION

KAJU KATLI, KAJU ROLLS, ASSORTED MIX, BESAN LADOO, RASMALAI, GULAB JAMUN, MOTICHOOR LADOO, KALA JAMUN

ORDER NOW : 1800 188 / 55011985

www.mughalmahal.com

MEW pushes to finalize Subiya Phase IV tender

CAPT extends bid guarantees to Dec

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy has asked the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to apply Article 40 of the Tenders Law on the Subiya Station Phase IV tender in order to award it to the lowest bidder.

Sources from the ministry confirmed that in its meeting last week, CAPT requested for the extension of the initial guarantee period for all companies participating in the tender until Dec 29, instead of Sept 29, and to expedite the submission of recommendations for the three accepted bids that it referred to the ministry for review.

Sources said the ministry is keen on completing the procedures related to this tender to boost the production capacity of the station by 900 megawatts, which will help meet the electricity needs of the country, especially in light of the current and future urban expansion.

Sources stated that once the tender procedures for the Subiya project are completed, the station will be operational in 2028 -- before the operation of the second and third phases of North Zour Power Plant.

Furthermore, the ministry referred the tender for the construction of new buildings and maintenance of civil works for 26 freshwater filling stations to the State Audit Bureau (SAB) on Tuesday for review, audit and approval. The contract value is KD 2.876 million.



Kuwaiti pavilions attract significant attention and turnout at the Riyadh International Book Fair.

Kuwaiti publishers shine in Riyadh

Kuwaiti publishing houses maintain a strong presence at the Riyadh International Book Fair, running until October 11, consistently participating in this major cultural event.

Kuwait's participation in the fair, held under the theme and slogan "Riyadh Reads", is represented by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, along with a number of private Kuwaiti publishing houses.

The Kuwaiti pavilions have attracted significant attention and turnout, a result of their strong participation in previous editions of the Riyadh International Book Fair. (KUNA)



The Capital Governor accompanied by Director-General of Kuwait Municipality during an inspection tour of the Souq Mubarakiya reconstruction project.

Capital Governor inspects progress at Souq Mubarakiya reconstruction site

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali conducted an inspection tour of the Souq Mubarakiya reconstruction project, accompanied by Director-General of Kuwait Municipality Manal Al-Asfour, CEO of Kuwait Finance House Khaled Al-Shamlan, and representatives from the con-

tracting company, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the visit, the governor stressed the importance of preserving the market's heritage character and called for expediting the project's completion to restore its distinguished historical and economic status.

Initiative aims to harness youth energy

MoE revives evening school clubs

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: As part of its commitment to providing a rich educational environment that utilizes students' time, directs their energy toward beneficial activities, and develops their skills, the Ministry of Education announced the resumption of evening school clubs for the 2025/2026 academic year daily from 4:00pm to 8:00 pm starting Sunday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Online registration for these activi-

ties will open on Monday. The clubs will be available free of charge for both boys and girls in both public and private schools, in support of the principle of equal opportunity and for enabling all students to actively participate and benefit from the programs offered.

The ministry encouraged those wishing to join to register online through its official website, stressing that students who miss the registration

deadline must visit the center in person to complete their registration.

It explained that the clubs offer a diverse range of sports programs catering to students' interests, including football, handball, volleyball, swimming, and bowling. Activities also include robotics, programming, and practical studies such as electrical and interior design, providing students with opportunities to develop advanced scientific and technological skills.



Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 50.000	BHD 111.000/-net
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 61000/-net	BHD 136.198

Terms & conditions apply*

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext.351 | Email: reservation@albander.com | www.albander.com | @albanderhotelandresort



Photos during the signing of Grant Agreements and the Memorandum of Understanding.

KFAED, OCHA sign grant deals to support Sudan and Yemen

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: A Grant Agreement was signed today between Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), whereby the Kuwait Fund will provide a grant to the tune of USD3.0 Million in support of the Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF), which aims to provide life-saving aid to overcome hunger, prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases, support displaced families and reduce their vulnerability to danger , and enhance the provision of basic services in conflict - affected areas in the Republic of Sudan.

In addition, a Grant Agreement was also signed with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in support of the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF), whereby the Kuwait Fund will provide a Grant in the amount of USD 1.0 million. The Agreement will

follow the same procedures as the Sudan Humanitarian Fund, which aims to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance.

Furthermore, a Memorandum of Understanding will be concluded between the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to strengthen their cooperation in addressing humanitarian needs.

The Grant Agreements and the Memorandum of Understanding were all signed on behalf of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development by Mr. Waleed Al-Bahar, Acting Director General the Fund and on behalf of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) by Mr. Tom Fletcher, The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator of (OCHA).

Team showcases K-STAR project

KU students take innovation to new heights at Sydney forums

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Kuwait University, represented by the Engineering Training and Graduate Center at the College of Engineering and Petroleum through a team of students from the College, participated in two international engineering conferences held in Sydney, Australia.

This is in line with the efforts of the University to achieve its academic and global excellence vision, as well as to support and encourage students to be creative and innovative, while intensifying its presence in international scientific forums, thus, contributing to raising the standing of Kuwait in global research and engineering fields.

Kuwait Investment Company (KIC) sponsored the team that included Eng. Aseel Al-Hajri from the Department of Chemical Engineering, Eng. Abdulmohsen Al-Ghanim from the Department of Computer Engineering, Eng. Dalia Al-Rudaini from the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Kuwait University, and Eng. Omar Odeh from the Department of Computer Engineering at Gulf University.

Kuwait Investment Company (KIC) sponsored the team that included Eng. Aseel Al-Hajri from the Department of Chemical Engineering, Eng. Abdulmohsen Al-Ghanim from the Department of Computer Engineering, Eng. Dalia Al-Rudaini from the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Kuwait University, and Eng. Omar Odeh from the Department of Computer Engineering at Gulf University.

LOCAL

Kuwait reaffirms human rights commitment at UNHRC session

GCC envoys rally support over Gaza atrocities

GENEVA, Oct 8, (KUNA): The Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen on Wednesday affirmed that the 60th session of the UN Human Rights Council carried special significance amid the growing global humanitarian crises and grave violations of human rights.

He stressed Kuwait's active diplomatic role during the session to unify Gulf and regional positions and to urge the international community to take urgent action to protect human rights and preserve human dignity worldwide.

Ambassador Al-Hayen who also chairs the GCC Ambassadors' Council said in an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that Kuwait in coordination with its GCC group made intensive efforts during the session to mobilize

international support and to confront the grave violations and genocide committed against the Palestinian people especially in Gaza.

He added that the UN declaration of famine in Gaza and the findings of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory which accused the Israeli occupation of committing "genocide" against Palestinians represent an urgent call to the international community to intensify efforts to stop the occupation's crimes against humanity and to ensure the immediate delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza ending the policy of starvation that has led to the death of hundreds of civilians particularly children.

Ambassador Al-Hayen reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to continue its political and humanitarian efforts at all international levels and through UN mechanisms to rally support and bring an end to this tragedy.

He also noted that at the request of Gulf Cooperation Council member states the Human Rights Council decided

during the session to hold an urgent meeting to discuss the recent Israeli occupation attack on Qatar stressing that this decision reflected the Gulf states' keenness to uphold the principles of international law and to reject any violation of state sovereignty or regional stability.

Ambassador Al-Hayen underlined that convening the urgent meeting was a necessary step to send a clear message that violations of state sovereignty and threats to international peace and security are unacceptable reiterating that the Human Rights Council in accordance with its mandate is responsible for addressing situations that affect the protection and promotion of human rights and for examining the broader implications of serious breaches of international law.

He further stated that the session held particular importance for Kuwait as the Council unanimously adopted the outcome of Kuwait's fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) describing it as a milestone in Kuwait's long-standing commitment to promoting and protecting human rights.

Ambassador Al-Hayen explained that Kuwait remains committed to implementing the recommendations it accepted and to transforming them into concrete and actionable policies, praising the constructive and positive atmosphere that marked the adoption session, which witnessed broad commendation from member states for Kuwait's human rights achievements.

He reaffirmed that Kuwait will remain an active partner within the United Nations system and will continue its humanitarian and mediating role in line with its principled commitment to justice peace and respect for human rights.

The UN Human Rights Council concluded today its 60th session in Geneva adopting several resolutions aimed at strengthening and protecting human dignity including those related to the role of prevention in promoting human rights through the rule of law and accountability as well as resolutions affirming civil political economic social and cultural rights and the right to development.

Continued from Page 1

Arab Times

trade relations. "Following our recent delegation visits, many Hong Kong businesses have been able to finalize agreements with Kuwaity trading partners – a clear signal of growing trust and opportunity," a delegation spokesperson noted. The Hong Kong representatives emphasized the strategic importance of platforms like Arab Times in raising awareness about bilateral initiatives and fostering transparent business environments.

Following the Editor-in-Chief's session, Managing Editor Marlon Aquino Malinao and Online Media Manager John Fernandes joined the HKETO delegation to discuss a wider range of topics. These included:

- Implementation and impact of the Hong Kong-Kuwait Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, which ensures greater security and support for investors from both sides
- Practical steps in facilitating two-way business opportunities, including trade networking, start-up support, and knowledge exchange

- Strengthening legal and regulatory cooperation frameworks at both the bilateral and GCC-wide levels
- Hong Kong's role as a global exhibition hub and its influence on international tourism, particularly through events like its world-renowned jewelry expo
- Increasing tourism and cultural exchange, with initiatives such as expanding halal-certified facilities and promoting sports events attractive to Middle Eastern visitors

The Hong Kong delegation also showcased the city's status as the world's largest offshore Renminbi center, making cross-border trade and investment more seamless for Middle Eastern partners. Success stories were discussed, including collaborations between Chinese tech firms, Hong Kong investors, and Gulf market leaders – for example, a driverless vehicle project at Qatar's airport.

Both Arab Times and the HKETO officials expressed strong optimism for future collaborative projects. The delegation affirmed that all these business services ranging from networking to trade facilitation are fully complimentary, aimed at fostering reciprocal growth and innovation.

As the meeting concluded, Director General Simon Chan invited the Arab Times team to witness Hong Kong's business and cultural dynamism firsthand, reinforcing the spirit of partnership between the two regions.

One serious

Q: What are the main benefits of the new traffic law amendments implemented in April 2025?

A: There has been a noticeable increase in public awareness, a better road safety culture, and greater compliance with traffic laws among drivers.

Q: Have the amendments helped reduce traffic accident rates? And how compliant are drivers?

A: Yes, traffic violations dropped by 53 percent, traffic accidents decreased by 54 percent, and the fatality rate declined by 75 percent, according to statistics from June 2025 compared to June 2024.

Common violations

Q: What is the total number of vehicles in Kuwait?

A: There are 1,746,430 registered vehicles in the country.

Q: What are the most common traffic violations since the new law was implemented? And how compliant are drivers?

A: Following the amendments to the traffic law and the activation of surveillance cameras, mobile phone use while driving and failure to wear a seatbelt became the most commonly recorded violations. This increase is due to enhanced monitoring through the newly activated cameras.

Q: After launching traffic campaigns targeting illegal overtaking and obstruction of traffic flow, how many daily violations have been recorded? And how are these violations monitored?

A: On September 28 alone, the General Traffic Department recorded 669 traffic violations. Monitoring continues daily through traffic officers, the Security Monitoring Department's Traffic Investigations Unit, surveillance cameras in the control room, and drone technology used to detect violation sites. The goal is to reduce traffic accidents, prevent disruptions to traffic flow, and maintain smooth movement on public roads.

Q: What is the penalty for illegal overtaking and obstructing traffic flow?

A: Violating overtaking regulations under Article 37 of the traffic law carries a fine of KD 30 to KD 50, or KD 15 in case of a settlement. Intentionally obstructing traffic flow is punishable under Article 36 with a fine of KD 45 to KD 75, or KD 20 if settled.

Q: What are the serious traffic violations that cannot be settled and are referred directly to court?

A: Settlements and referrals to court fall under the authority of the General Traffic Department through the Traffic Violations Investigation Department, following an investigation into any violation that could endanger lives. Article 44 of the traffic law permits arrest in such cases, including racing, reckless driving, and dangerous behavior. All surrounding circumstances are taken into consideration when making these decisions.

Recklessness and carelessness

Q: Have individuals been referred to court for committing serious violations? What rulings have been issued against them?

A: Yes, many violations have been referred to court, either by immediate referral of individuals or by submitting their case files. Traffic rulings vary between imprisonment, fines, or both. A total of 35 court rulings resulting in imprisonment and fines were issued in July, August, and September. Eleven rulings were imprisonment sentences, and 24 were fines. Among the most notable rulings were two months of imprisonment, a one-year driving license suspension, a KD 1,000 fine, and deportation from the country.

Q: What penalties are imposed for recklessness and carelessness violations under the new law?

A: The fine is KD 150 in case of settlement. If referred to court, the penalties range from one to three years in prison, a fine between KD 600 and KD 1,000, or one of these penalties.

Q: How many people were detained due to these violations?

A: In August, 111 people were held in the traffic detention center for violating Article 44 of the traffic law, which allows detention for up to 48 hours before referral to court.

Q: What are considered serious violations? Is a payment block placed on them? When can the violator obtain a settlement order?

A: Serious violations are those that endanger the lives of road users and cause traffic disruptions. A block is placed on the violation to initiate legal and administrative procedures according to the violation type. Settlements are handled exclusively by the Traffic Violations Investigation Department after completing the necessary procedures, whether that involves license suspension, vehicle impoundment, detention, or court referral.

Using the phone and lack of attention while driving

Q: If caught using a phone while driving, can the fine be paid electronically, or does it require an investigation?

A: Yes, the settlement amount of KD 75 can be paid electronically. The department may also refer the case to court, where the penalty could be three months in prison and a fine ranging from KD 150 to KD 300.

Q: Is the violation of "lack of attention while driving" automatically recorded along with the violation of using a phone while driving?

A: No. The violation of lack of attention is different from using a handheld phone while driving. If using the phone causes lack of attention and endangers others' lives, the other violation "lack of attention" is applied. The violation depends on the action and the resulting danger to people's lives. For example, if a person uses a phone while driving but the vehicle moves normally, only the phone use violation is recorded. But if the vehicle is swerving, both violations are recorded immediately by the patrol officer.

Q: What is the amount collected from non-Kuwaitis after implementing the payment of traffic fines before travel?

A: All fines for non-Kuwaitis of various nationalities are collected at border checkpoints. As for GCC citizens, there is an ongoing cooperation project to complete the registration and transfer of traffic violations electronically between Gulf countries.

Q: If there are serious violations, can they be paid or the travel ban lifted at the airport or border crossings?

A: For serious and blocked violations, the violator must visit one of the traffic violations departments to complete the related procedures. Other violations can be paid at border crossings or through the Ministry of Interior's website and the Sahel app. It is important to check traffic violations before departure to avoid any issues when leaving the country.

Q: Has the collection of traffic fines been applied to citizens before traveling?

A: No.

Gulf system for monitoring violations

Q: How is the points system applied in the new 2025 traffic law? What impact does it have on drivers?

A: The traffic points system continues as outlined in the law, which has not been amended. The system affects the violator when their points reach the level that leads to license suspension.

Q: What penalties are imposed for running a red light under the new amendments? How is this violation handled if it was accidental?

A: The violation results in license suspension under Article 42 for up to 4 months and vehicle impoundment under Article 207 of the traffic law's executive regulations for up to two months. The fine ranges from KD 600 to KD 1,000, with imprisonment from one to three years. In case of settlement, the fine is KD 150. Violations can be recorded directly or indirectly through traffic cameras. If the violator objects, they can visit the Traffic Violations Investigation Department to verify the violation, which is a right available to all.

Q: How is driving without a license or with a canceled license handled?

A: Driving with a canceled license or without a license means the person does not hold a valid driving license. The procedures for this type of traffic violation are applied accordingly.

Q: When is an expatriate deported? What violations lead to deportation? Is deportation applied after the first offense or only for repeat violations?

A: Deportation is an administrative decision issued after an investigation into a serious traffic violation. It does not require the violation to be repeated.

Q: How many people have been deported for committing serious violations since the new law was implemented?

A: Around 15 individuals were deported in May, June, and July.

Q: Are driving licenses revoked for expatriates if the job title under which the license was issued is canceled?

A: Driving licenses are issued based on the conditions outlined in Ministerial Decision No. 270/2020. If any of these conditions are no longer met, the license is revoked.

Q: Is the validity of expatriates' driving licenses linked to their residency duration? What is the validity period for expatriates' driving licenses?

A: There is no connection between the driving license validity and residency duration. Expatriates are granted licenses valid for five years, whether for vehicles or motorcycles, as stated in Article 85.

Q: What measures are taken against minors driving vehicles without a driving license?

A: Minors committing this violation are referred to the Juvenile Prosecution. Their vehicles are impounded for up to two months according to Article 207 of the executive regulations of the traffic law. They face a fine ranging from KD 150 to KD 300 and imprisonment for three months. In case of a settlement, the fine is KD 75.

Q: Are there statistics on these numbers?

A: In August, 232 traffic violations were recorded against minors, and they were referred to the Juvenile Prosecution.

Q: Are actions taken against the guardian of the minor?

A: A violation is recorded against the vehicle owner, whether the guardian or another person, with penalties including a fine of KD 100 to KD 200 and imprisonment of up to two months. In case of a settlement, the fine is KD 50.

Q: What if the guardian was unaware that their child took the vehicle?

A: The Juvenile Prosecution handles legal matters, and the guardian may be held accountable for negligence in supervising the minor.

Q: How many minors have been referred to prosecution during the current period?

A: A total of 168 individuals under the age of 18 were referred to the Juvenile Prosecution for driving without a license.

Q: What violations require vehicle impoundment?

A: All violations listed in Article 207 of the executive regulations of the traffic law require vehicle impoundment.

Q: Regarding vehicle insurance, what are the fines for not renewing the vehicle registration book or driving license, and what are the fines for delays under the new law?

A: The fine for not renewing is KD 15.

Q: Can the vehicle registration book and driving license be presented digitally via the Sahel app, or is a physical copy required?

A: Yes, the digital versions on the Hawiyati app are sufficient. However, if the driver is not the vehicle owner, the physical ownership book must be carried.

Exempted categories

Categories exempt from the residency and salary requirements, provided they hold a university degree, are:

- Judges and members of the Public Prosecution
- Consultants and experts

- Faculty members of universities and applied institutes

- Doctors and pharmacists

- Journalists and media professionals

- Engineers

- Veterinarians

- Researchers of all kinds,

- Legal professionals,

- Translators,

- Teachers,

- Social specialists,

- Librarians,

- Mosque imams, and muezzins working in government entities

- Sports coaches working in sports federations and clubs within government bodies.

Categories exempt from residency, salary, and university degree requirements for issuing licenses to expatriates include:

- Kuwaiti wives, widows, or divorced women from foreigners who have children with them.

- Husbands of Kuwaiti women and their foreign children.

- Residents with illegal status who hold valid security cards and health insurance.

- Members of diplomatic bodies.

- Professional athletes affiliated with clubs and sports federations in government entities.

- Drivers and representatives in government entities, and general representatives holding a valid driver's license issued by their country or any other country.

- Domestic workers and similar categories who have worked continuously for at least two years with the same sponsor, provided their profession is changed to driver.

- Specialized technicians in the oil sector under the Oil Police.

- Physical therapists and all other medical technicians.

- Pilots, their assistants, captains, ship commanders, and guides.

- Mortuary washers.

- Housewives with children whose husbands are pilots, assistants, captains, or ship guides, as well as judges, public prosecutors, consultants, experts, university and institute faculty members, doctors, pharmacists, executive managers, general managers, and their assistants.

Points system and license suspensions

First offense: 14 points - license suspension for 3 months

Second offense: 12 points - license suspension for 6 months

Third offense: 10 points - license suspension for 9 months

Fourth offense: 8 points - license suspension for 1 year

Fifth offense: 6 points - permanent license revocation

A fine of 15 dinars is imposed for failing to renew the vehicle registration booklet or driver's license, as well as for late renewal of the vehicle registration booklet.

Brig. Gen. Al-Qattouan affirmed that the total number of vehicles in Kuwait has reached 1,746,430.

He affirmed that the amendments to the new traffic law have played a major role in reducing traffic violations by 53 percent, traffic accidents by 74 percent, and fatalities by 75 percent. The ongoing traffic campaigns conducted in all governorates aim primarily to achieve traffic discipline rather than simply issuing fines. Brig. Gen. Al-Qattouan stressed that strict adherence to traffic laws helps drivers avoid violations, fines, and legal consequences.

It is worth mentioning that Brigadier General Nasser Abu Suleib expressed gratitude to the Director of the General Department of Relations and Security Media at the Ministry of Interior for facilitating the interview with the Director General of the General Traffic Department.

Lieutenant Colonel Abdullah Bu Hasan — A beacon of energy

As usual, Assistant Head for Traffic Awareness at the General Traffic Department starts his day full of relentless energy. He works tirelessly and enthusiastically, immersing himself in a number of tasks with determination and passion. In the morning, he participates in awareness campaigns through various media outlets, explaining clearly and simply, urging everyone to follow traffic laws with words that inspire and promote positive behavior changes. He also leads ongoing awareness campaigns in schools and governmental and private institutions, delivering educational lectures with great skill and patience.

Amir receives

His Highness and Sheikh Mohammad stressed the need for continued international efforts to recognize the Palestinian state to achieve all the aspirations and hopes of the brotherly Palestinian people.

During the meeting, the most important issues of common Gulf interest were also discussed.

Following the talks, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah held a banquet in honor of the UAE President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, on the occasion of his visit to the country.

At the conclusion of the fraternal visit, the President of the UAE Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and his ac-

companying delegation departed Kuwait were they were seen off by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and the Amiri Diwan Affairs Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah.

Kuwait, US

They also reviewed mechanisms for exchanging experiences in operating passenger and cargo flights between the two countries more efficiently to keep pace with security and technical developments.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef watched a presentation about the operational procedures and modern surveillance and inspection systems used in managing passengers and goods' movement.

They discussed the possibility of organizing training programs to qualify national cadres in port management and utilizing smart systems to improve border inspection and control.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef affirmed Kuwait's desire to expand areas of customs and security cooperation with the United States. He also stressed, according to the statement, the importance of continued coordination to build sustainable national capabilities that can keep up with rapid changes in port security.

Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah attended the meeting.

Summary orders

The new system eliminates the need to retrieve millions of paper files, many of which are inaccessible due to the passage of time. Nearly six million paper case files are stored, and some are no longer actionable due to the statute of limitations.

Electronic transformation

With the amendment, it is now possible to receive, process, rule on, and announce summary orders entirely online. This development opens the door for issuing judicial rulings electronically at every stage.

Last year alone, around 250,000 summary orders were issued, highlighting the significant impact that digitalization will have in saving time and effort for litigants and the court system.

Significance and implications

The amendment marks a turning point in Kuwait's transition toward a fully integrated digital justice system. It reduces reliance on paper-based and in-person procedures, speeds up verdicts, and optimizes judicial and human resources.

Complete electronic documentation of summary orders minimizes the risk of errors or delays and positions Kuwait among countries with modern digital judicial systems.

The amendment also includes new procedures for handling illegal items seized in criminal cases, specifying storage durations and identifying the authority responsible for their destruction when they are no longer needed for investigation or trial.

UN hails

He added that UN teams have difficulties in delivering aid with the ongoing military operations, stressing that a ceasefire was required to enable material to reach the Gazans.


Fletcher also said that bureaucracy and administrative restrictions were another hurdle to overcome when it came to aid delivery.

The UN depended on support from partners including Kuwait to push for a ceasefire, which would result in humanitarian aid delivery, he affirmed.

The UN official also stressed it was vital to answer calls for aid, saying that the rapid response from Kuwait and other nations was vital in saving human lives.

The international community is "failing" in providing protection to citizens in the Gaza Strip and this is an important right for all civilians across the globe, he affirmed.

It is vital to boost efforts on the level of the UNSC and the global community to bring about a lasting ceasefire and ensuring delivery of aid without obstruction, added Fletcher who called for reviving the peace process and the two-state solution to bring about stability and sustainable development to all people of the region.



Required for Academic Year 2025–2026 at Private American School

Elementary <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Female Physical Education Teacher• English Teacher (Native English speakers only)• Science Teacher
Middle and High School <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Math Teacher• Social Studies/Humanities Teacher (Native English speakers only)• AP English Teacher (Native English speakers only)• English Teacher (Native English speakers only)• Culinary Arts Teacher• Science Teacher
Leadership Positions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MSHS Counselor• MSHS College Counselor• MSHS Dean of Students
Interested applicants may apply through our website at the following link: https://www.abs.edu.kw/careers/abs



RECALL INFORMATION



BMW Vehicles X3,X4
300,400,500,600,700
Model Year: 2018 - 2020



RECALL REASON

In the affected vehicles, water may enter the starter motor, leading to corrosion.



REMEDY

Replacement of the starter motor free of charge.



CONTACT

Ali Mohammad Thunayan Alghanim & Sons Automotive Co.
Hotline: **1846464**
Please book in advance to serve you better.

This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42,43,44,45,46,47 and48)of no.(27/2015) issuing the executive by laws no.(19/2014)on Consumer Protection

 @MCKW

Govt shutdown grinds into second week, but quiet talks emerging

Trump administration threatens no back pay for federal workers in shutdown

WASHINGTON, Oct 8, (AP): US President Donald Trump’s administration warned on Tuesday of no guaranteed back pay for federal workers during a government shutdown, reversing what has been long-standing policy for some 750,000 furloughed employees, according to a memo being circulated by the White House.

Trump signed into law after the longest government shutdown in 2019 legislation to ensure federal workers receive back pay during any federal funding lapse. But in the new memo, his Office of Management and Budget says back pay must be provided by Congress, if it chooses to do so, as part of any bill to fund the government.

The move by the Republican administration was widely seen as a strong-arm tactic - a way to pressure lawmakers to reopen the government, now in the seventh day of a shutdown.

“There are some people that don’t deserve to be taken care of, and we’ll take care of them in a different way,” Trump said during an event at the White House.

He said back pay “depends on who we’re talking about.” Asked a second time about backpay for furloughed federal workers given that the requirement is spelled out in law, Trump said: “I follow the law, and what the law says is correct.”

Refusing retroactive pay to the workers, some of whom must remain on the job as essential employees, would be a stark departure from norms and practices and almost certainly would be met with legal action.

While federal workers - as well as service members of the military - have often missed paychecks during past shutdowns, they are almost always reimbursed once the government reopens.

“That should turn up the urgency and the necessity of the Democrats doing the right thing here,” House Speaker Mike Johnson said at a press conference at the Capitol.

Johnson, a lawyer, said he hadn’t fully read the memo but “there are some legal analysts who are saying” that it may not be necessary or appropriate to repay the federal workers.

But Democratic Sen. Patty Murray of Washington blasted the Trump administration as defying the law.



A sign that reads Closed due to federal government shutdown, is seen outside of the National Gallery of Art on the 6th day of the government shutdown, in Washington, on Oct 6. (AP)

lawmaker on the Senate Appropriations Committee. “The letter of the law is as plain as can be - federal workers, including furloughed workers, are entitled to their backpay following a shutdown.”

And Senate Majority Leader John Thune, a Republican, said, “My assumption is that the furloughed workers will get paid.”

In the memo draft prepared for Trump’s Office of Management and Budget director Russ Vought, first reported by Axios, the office’s general counsel Mark R. Paoletta lays out a legal rationale for no back pay for federal workers.

The memo explains that while the Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019 says workers shall be paid after federal funding is restored, it argues the action is not self-executing. Instead, the memo says, repaying the federal workers would have to be part of subsequent legislation, presumably in the bill to reopen the government.

The OMB analysis draws on language familiar to budget experts by suggesting that the 2019 bill created an authorization to pay the federal workers but not the actual appropriation.

Congress, it says, is able to decide whether it wants to pay the workers or not.

For now, Congress remains at a standstill, with neither side - nor the White House - appearing willing to budge. Democrats are fighting for health care funds to prevent a lapse in federal subsidies that threaten to send insurance rates skyrocketing. Republicans say the issue can be dealt with later.

Tours at the Capitol have come to a standstill. The House is keeping its doors closed, while the Senate is stuck in a loop of failed votes on a rejected plan to reopen the government.

As the government shutdown enters a second week, there’s no discernible endgame in sight.

“You have to negotiate,” Sen. Bernie Sanders, the independent from Vermont, argued late into the evening on the Senate floor. “That’s the way it works.”

National Guard troops outside Chicago, could be in Memphis soon in Trump’s latest deployment

ELWOOD, Illinois, Oct 8, (AP): National Guard troops are positioned outside Chicago and they could be in Memphis by Friday as the Trump administration pushes ahead with an aggressive policy toward big-city crime whether local leaders support it or not.

National Guard members from Texas had settled in at an Army Reserve center in Illinois by early Wednesday, despite a lawsuit and vigorous opposition from Democratic elected leaders. Their exact mission was not clear, though the Trump administration has an aggressive immigration enforcement operation in the nation’s third-largest city, and protesters have frequently rallied at an immigration building outside Chicago in Broadview.

The president has called Chicago a “hell hole” of crime, although police statistics show significant drops in most crimes, including homicides.

In Memphis, Tennessee, police Chief Cerelyn Davis said a small group of commanders were already in the city, planning for the arrival of Guard troops.

Republican Gov. Bill Lee has said troops will be deputized by the US Marshals Service to “play a critical support role” for local law enforcement, though that role hasn’t been precisely defined yet.

President Donald Trump’s bid to deploy the military on US soil over local opposition has triggered a conflict with blue state governors. Illinois and Chicago are urging a federal judge to stop “Trump’s long-declared ‘War’” on the state. A court hearing on their lawsuit is scheduled for Thursday. In Oregon, a judge over the weekend blocked the Guard’s deployment to Portland.

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker has predicted that National Guard troops from the state would be activated, along with 400 from Texas. He has accused Trump of using troops as “political props” and “pawns,” and said he didn’t get a heads-up from Washington about their deployment.

The Associated Press saw military personnel in uniforms with the Texas National Guard patch at the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Elwood, 55 miles (89 kilometers) southwest of Chicago. Trucks marked Emergency Disaster Services dropped off portable toilets and other supplies. Trailers were set up in rows. Extra fencing was spread across the perimeter.

The nearly 150-year-old Posse Comitatus Act limits the military’s role in enforcing domestic laws. However, Trump has said he would be willing to invoke the Insurrection Act, which allows a president to dispatch active duty military in states that are unable to put down an insurrection or are defying federal law.

The Federal Aviation Administration ordered flight restrictions over the Army Reserve Center for security reasons until Dec. 6.

Armed Border Patrol agents making arrests near famous landmarks has amplified concerns after an immigration crackdown that began last month. Agents have targeted immigrant-heavy and largely Latino areas.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson signed an executive order Monday barring federal immigration agents and others from using city-owned property as staging areas for enforcement operations.



A federal agent carries a child as agents detain someone near Pioneer Court off the Magnificent Mile on Sept 28, in Chicago. (AP)

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Oct 8, (AP): Matt Van Epps, a former commissioner in Gov. Bill Lee’s administration who was endorsed by President Donald Trump, and Democratic state Rep. Aftyn Behn won their crowded primary races Tuesday and will face off in December in a special election to replace a GOP congressman who left office this summer.

Van Epps clinched victory with the presidential endorsement that came after in-person early voting ended. Eleven Republicans were on the ballot for the seat vacated by former U.S. Rep. Mark Green.

In a victory speech, the Republican nominee said the endorsement “made the difference, and I will never forget it.” He pledged to work with Trump on issues ranging from illegal immigration enforcement to providing care for veterans.

“In Congress I’ll stand shoulder to shoulder with President Trump to advance our America First agenda,” Van Epps said.

Behn, a social worker and community organizer from Nashville, said her win proved that “authenticity, energy, organizing power consistently outperformed corporate money and poll-tested messaging.”

“Tonight, Tennessee sent a message,” Behn told a room of supporters. “And that message is: Women still fight. Organizers can still win. And Democrats in the Deep South aren’t done yet.”

The Dec. 2 general election could gauge the popularity of Trump’s aggressive second-term agenda, especially with suburban Republican voters.



US Seventh Congressional candidate Aftyn Behn speaks during a political forum on Sept 8, in Dickson, Tennessee. (AP)



People walk on a road not far from the frontline in Donetsk region, Ukraine, on Sept 5. (AP)

‘Europe must meet the challenge’

Russia waging ‘gray zone campaign’: EU chief

BRUSSELS, Oct 8, (AP): Russia is waging a “targeted gray zone campaign” against Europe, including air-space violations, sabotage and cyber-attacks that will only escalate if the Kremlin is not challenged, the European Union’s top official warned on Wednesday.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that in just two weeks, fighter jets breached Estonia’s airspace, while drones overflowed military bases and critical infrastructure sites in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Poland and Romania.

“Europe must respond. We must investigate every incident, and we must not shy away from attributing responsibility because every square centimeter of our territory must be protected and safe,” von der Leyen told EU lawmakers in Strasbourg, France.

“If we hesitate to act, the gray zone will only expand,” she said.

The EU’s executive branch, under von der Leyen’s guidance, is preparing a plan for Europe to be ready to confront such challenges by 2030. EU officials believe that Russia could be capable of launching an attack on another European country within three to five years.

The plan includes the development of a “drone map” of high-tech systems linked to equipment that can detect, track and destroy drones, as well as strike their operating systems or pilots on the ground.

In two weeks, von der Leyen will submit a “road map” for bolstering Europe’s defenses by the end of the decade to the 27-nation bloc’s heads of state and governments for their approval.

Von der Leyen said that it’s simply not affordable for European countries to continue to scramble the latest-generation fighter jets to counter relatively cheap drones, as happened when several of them entered Polish airspace a month ago.

“This is absolutely not sustainable. We need an anti-drone system that is affordable and fit for purpose. For swift detection, swift interception, and when needed, swift neutralization,” she said, adding that Europe has much to learn in this from Ukraine.

The commission believes that the best way to encourage European countries to invest more in defense is to ensure that it creates jobs and is good for business in Europe. It insists that at least 65% of any project funded with EU money should be based on the continent.

Also:

KYIV, Ukraine: Russia seriously damaged one of Ukraine’s thermal power plants in an overnight attack, authorities said Wednesday, as Moscow pursued its campaign to deny Ukrainians heat, light and running water as winter approaches.

Two workers were injured in the attack, according to DTEK, Ukraine’s biggest electricity operator. It provided no further information, including the plant’s location.

Ukrainian authorities release few details about the routine Russian attacks on its power grid so as not to give away intelligence to the enemy. Repair crews, meanwhile, work round the clock to undo the damage.

The energy sector has been a key battleground since Russia launched its all-out invasion of its neighbor more than three years ago.

Each year, Russia has tried to cripple the Ukrainian power grid ahead of the bitter winter, hoping to erode public morale and disrupt military manufacturing. Ukraine has accused Moscow of weaponizing winter.



European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen delivers her statement on EU response to recent Russian violations of the EU Member States’ airspace and critical infrastructure on Oct 8, at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France. (AP)

Britain’s once-mighty Conservative Party battling to avoid extinction

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 8, (AP): Britain’s Conservatives used to boast they were the world’s most successful political party. Not anymore.

The center-right party that governed the UK for more than 60 of the last 100 years before being ousted in 2024 is embracing Donald Trump-style policies, including mass deportations and government budget-slashing, as it battles to remain a contender for power.

The Tories are fighting not just the Labour government to their left, but Reform UK to the right. Nigel Farage’s hard-right party has topped opinion polls for months, trounced the Conservatives in May’s local elections and has welcomed a stream of defecting Tory members and officials.

Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch acknowledged that the party has “a mountain to climb” to win back voters.

But in a speech closing the party’s annual conference on Wednesday, she insisted the Conservatives are “the only party that can meet the test of our generation, the only party that can deliver a stronger economy and stronger borders.”

Crowds were thin under the vast vaulted roof of the Manchester Central conference venue, a former railway station in the northwest England city, as delegates absorbed the party’s diminished stature.

“It’s not in a great place at the moment, we’re aware of that,” said Neil McCarthy, a member from northern England. “There needs to be passion, and we need to get the message across that we’ve changed.”

Questions of party competence weren’t helped by Conservative-branded chocolate bars distributed at the conference on which Britain was misspelled as “Britian.”

The Conservatives have endured years of turmoil - some of it of their own making, some of it shared by incumbent parties in a world of economic and geopolitical instability.

The economic benefits of Britain’s 2020 exit from the European Union, championed by those now running the party, have been elusive. Prime Minister Boris Johnson won a huge election victory in 2019 but was ousted by the party in 2022 after a string of ethics scandals.

His successor, Liz Truss, sent inflation and interest rates soaring with a disastrous tax-cutting plan that wrecked the Conservatives’ reputation for economic stability.

Under Rishi Sunak, the government staggered on until the July 2024 election that delivered the Conservatives’ worst-ever defeat.



Britain’s Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch leaves after making her keynote speech during the Conservative Party Conference at the Manchester Central Convention Complex, Manchester, England on Oct 8. (AP)

Europe

4 dead after boat sinks off Greek island: Four people, including a child, died after a boat carrying migrants sank off the coast of an eastern Aegean island on Tuesday, Greece’s coast guard said.

A coast guard patrol boat recovered the bodies of two women, a man and a girl from the sea on the southern coast of the island of Lesbos, the coast guard said, adding that a semi-submerged boat was found near a rocky part of the shore nearby.

Thirty-four survivors made it to shore on their own and were found by police. A search and rescue operation on land and sea was called off after survivors told authorities there had been a total of 38 people on board the boat and there were no further missing people.

It was not immediately clear what had caused the sinking, and authorities did not immediately have any further details on the nationalities of the survivors or of the victims.

Greece is one of the main entry points into the European Union for people fleeing conflict and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Many make the short but perilous journey from the Turkish coast to nearby Greek islands in inflatable dinghies or other small boats, often unseaworthy, and fatal sinkings have been common. (AP)

Death toll in building collapse rises to 4: Spanish emergency workers on Wednesday recovered the bodies of two missing construction workers in the rubble of a building that collapsed in central Madrid a day earlier. The recovery brought the death toll to four.



Rescue workers stand on the roof at the scene of a building collapse in Madrid, Spain, on Oct 7. (AP)

The top floor of a six-story building under renovation collapsed and pancaked the floors below on Tuesday afternoon.

Emergency workers searched the site overnight with the help of police sniffer dogs and drones, finding the bodies early Wednesday.

One of the four dead workers was a woman. Another three workers were injured, with one suffering a fractured leg.

The facade remained standing and apparently stopped most of the debris from reaching the street.

Police are investigating the incident as a workplace accident. (AP)

INTERNATIONAL

Australia and Singapore prime ministers reaffirm commitment to multilateralism

CANBERRA, Oct 8, (Xinhua): The prime ministers of Australia and Singapore on Wednesday reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism after meeting in Canberra to launch an enhanced comprehensive strategic partnership.

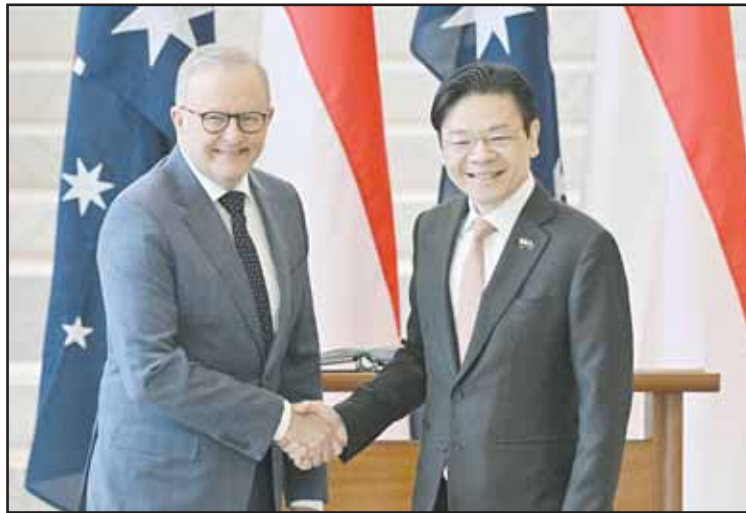
Speaking at a joint press conference after meeting Prime Minister (PM) Anthony Albanese at Parliament House, Singaporean PM Lawrence Wong said that both countries are taking concrete steps to keep multilateralism alive and effective.

Wong said that many of the joint initiatives between Singapore and Australia will not only deliver bilateral benefits, but also act as pathfinders for the wider world.

Albanese said that Australia and Singapore share a common world-view about the importance of multilateralism amid recent global uncertainty.

The meeting between the two leaders in Canberra marked the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Singapore and the 10th anniversary since the nations entered into a comprehensive strategic partnership.

A joint statement issued by the leaders said that the partnership between the two nations in the areas of science and innovation, health and pandemic preparedness would contribute to regional prosperity and "set new benchmarks" for international cooperation.



Australia Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, (left), and Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong meet before a Australia-Singapore Annual Leaders' Meeting Parliament House in Canberra, Australia on Oct 8. (AP)

marks" for international cooperation.

Also:

SYDNEY: Three men have been charged after Sydney police intercepted an alleged organized crime assassination attempt in the city's southwest on Tuesday afternoon, police said on Wednesday.

Detectives from a strike force targeting organized crime were conducting a routine surveillance operation in

southwest Sydney on Tuesday when they identified the three men mobilizing to carry out an offense, police in the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) said.

Tactical operations officers, the dog squad and aerial resources were deployed and two vehicles were subsequently stopped and the three men arrested in Revesby, 20 km southwest of central Sydney, around 3:50 p.m. local time.

Myanmar military strikes village in glider raid, killing at least 24

BANGKOK, Oct 8, (AP): Myanmar's military carried out a paraglider strike on a village that killed at least 24 people including children, and wounded more than 50 others, according to a member of a resistance group, villagers and media reports.

The Monday night attack was carried out by a motorized paraglider, and targeted a village in the country's central Sagaing region that was celebrating a Buddhist festival that included a rally calling for the release of political prisoners held by Myanmar's military government, the reports said.

Myanmar is in a civil war that began after the army seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. Much of the country, including the village of Bon To village where the attack took place, is under the control of resistance forces. The area is about 90 kilometers (55 miles) west of Mandalay, the country's second-largest city.

"The sickening reports emerging from the ground in central Myanmar following a nighttime attack late on Monday should serve as a gruesome wake-up call that civilians in Myanmar need urgent protection," the human rights group Amnesty International said in a statement.



Debris is seen after an alleged army air strike hit two private schools in Thayet Thapin village in Kyauktaw township in Rakhine state, Myanmar on Sept 12. (AP)

More than 100 people from Bon To and nearby villages had gathered at the village's primary school compound Monday evening for an oil lamp lighting ceremony to mark the end of Buddhist Lent and to call for the release of political prisoners including Suu Kyi, said a member of a local resistance group who attended the event.

A motorized paraglider dropped two bombs at about 7:15 p.m., killing an estimated 20 to 40 people, including children, villagers and members of local political activist groups and armed anti-military groups, said the resistance fighter, who spoke to The Associated Press on Wednesday on condition of anonymity to safeguard his personal security.

More than 4,800 homes were damaged

Typhoon Matmo leaves 8 dead in Vietnam

HANOI, Oct 8, (Agencies): Heavy rains and floods triggered by Typhoon Matmo have left eight people dead and five others injured in Vietnam, the Vietnam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority announced Wednesday.

The typhoon, despite not hitting Vietnam directly, brought heavy rains Tuesday that left rivers swollen, flooded streets, submerged houses and caused numerous landslides in the region that had already battled four other typhoons and tropical storms since September.

According to Vietnamese state media, more than 4,800 homes were damaged as of Tuesday. More than 97,000 livestock and poultry were killed or swept away, while flooding, landslides, and traffic disruptions occurred at 602 locations across northern mountainous and north-central provinces.

Authorities said three people were killed due to landslides in the provinces of Cao Bang and Thanh Hoa, and four others were missing after being swept away by flood in Thai Nguyen

and Thanh Hoa.

In hard hit Thai Nguyen, just north of the capital Hanoi, the swollen Cau River flooded several communities, with residents saying the waters rushed in so quickly that they were unable to move furniture. Some neighborhoods were isolated and authorities deployed rescue boats to deliver relief.

Heavy rains stopped Wednesday but alerts remain for low-lying areas where flooding is expected to last until the weekend. Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh approved an emergency aid package worth 140 billion VND (\$5.3 million) to help the northern provinces affected by the flooding, according to state media.

Annually, Vietnam experiences 10-13 tropical cyclones, but the frequency of intense, back-to-back typhoons is increasing, suggesting a shift driven by climate change, says Benjamin Horton, dean of the School of Energy and Environment at City University of Hong Kong.

Since August, Vietnam has been

battered by storms like Kajiki, Ragasa, and Bualoi.

Global warming is making tropical storms stronger and wetter, according to experts, since warmer oceans provide the storms with more fuel, driving more intense winds, heavier rainfall and shifting precipitation patterns across East Asia.

Meanwhile, a section of the Bac Khe 1 hydropower dam in northern Vietnam's Lang Son province collapsed on Tuesday afternoon, vietnam News Agency reported.

The incident was triggered by prolonged rainfall and excessive water pressure following heavy downpours brought by Typhoon Matmo, the 11th storm to hit Vietnam this year, according to local authorities.

Emergency forces including police, military, and rescue teams have been deployed to stabilize the situation and prevent further damage.

So far, no casualties have been reported, while property damage is still being assessed, the report said.



This aerial image shows flooding in the aftermath of Typhoon Matmo in Thai Nguyen, Vietnam on Oct 8. (AP)

Russia hosts Taliban delegation and warns against foreign army presence in Afghanistan

MOSCOW, Oct 8, (AP): Russia hosted a delegation of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban government Tuesday and issued a strong warning against a foreign military presence in the country.

Speaking at the start of an international meeting on Afghanistan in Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov praised the Taliban government for efforts to combat the Islamic State and other extremist groups, as well as eradicate illegal drugs.

Lavrov emphasized that "the deployment of military infrastructure of any third countries on the territory of Afghanistan, as well as on the territories of neighboring states, is categorically unacceptable under any pretext."

Last month, the Afghan government rejected a bid by US President Donald Trump to retake Bagram Air Base, four years after the chaotic US withdrawal from the country left the sprawling military facility in the Taliban's hands.

"The military presence of any extra-regional players could only lead to destabilization and new conflicts," Lavrov said. "The history of Afghanistan has seen a lot of situations with foreign military presence. I believe everyone should have drawn the right conclusions long time ago."

The former Soviet Union fought a 10-year war in Afghanistan that ended with Moscow withdrawing its troops in 1989.



In this photo released by Russian Foreign Ministry Press Service, Afghanistan's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, (front left), and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, (right), shake hands prior to their talks on the sidelines of the Moscow format consultations on Afghanistan in Moscow, Russia on Oct 7. (AP)

Since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August 2021 after the pullback of US and NATO forces, they have sought international recognition while also enforcing their strict interpretation of Islamic law.

In July, Russia became the first country to recognize the Taliban's government after removing the group

from its list of outlawed organizations.

At Tuesday's talks, Lavrov said Russia was looking forward to expanding business ties with Afghanistan and boosting anti-terrorism and anti-narcotics cooperation. He assailed the West for conducting "hostile" policies toward Kabul, maintaining a freeze on its assets and other sanctions.



In this handout photo released by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), NDRF personnel look for survivors after debris from a massive landslide hit a passenger bus Tuesday night, near Bilaspur in India's northern state of Himachal Pradesh on Oct 8. (AP)

Landslide hits bus in India, 15 dead

Modi, Putin discuss bilateral agenda

NEW DELHI, Oct 8, (Agencies): Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed on Tuesday bilateral cooperation with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

A statement from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs said that Modi had a telephone conversation with President Putin to review the progress in bilateral agenda.

The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia.

The Indian Premier conveyed that he looks forward to welcoming Putin to India for the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit.

Also:

NEW DELHI: At least 15 people were

killed late Tuesday after debris from a massive landslide hit a bus in India's northern state of Himachal Pradesh, local authorities said.

The bus was traveling on a hilly stretch near Bilaspur district when a landslide struck following days of torrential rains. There were at least 20 to 25 passengers on the bus at the time. Nine men, four women and two children were among those killed, police said.

Three injured children were rescued and admitted to a local hospital for treatment, according to a statement from the office of Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the state's highest-elected official.

Rescue operations continued Wednesday trying to find other missing passengers who are believed to be

dead, police said.

Intermittent rains have lashed the region since Monday, making the fragile mountain slopes unstable.

President Draupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered their condolences following the deadly landslide.

Extreme rains this year have caused flooding and landslides across the South Asian region, which includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Maldives and Nepal.

Flash floods swept away an entire village in India's northern state of Uttarakhand in August, while at least 44 people were killed in neighboring Nepal over the weekend due to mudslides and flooding triggered by severe rainfall.

11 Pakistani soldiers and 19 militants killed in clash

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Oct 8, (AP): Pakistani security forces raided a hideout of the Pakistani Taliban near the Afghan border before dawn Wednesday, triggering a fierce gunbattle that left 11 soldiers and 19 militants dead, the military said.

The operation took place in Orakzai district in the restive northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, according to a statement from the military.

The military described the slain insurgents as "Khwareji," a term which the government uses for militants it claims are backed by India, including members of the banned Tehrik-e-Taleban Pakistan and the Baloch Liberation Army.

Pakistani authorities have long accused New Delhi of supporting separatists in Balochistan and Pakistani Taliban fighters, allegations India denies.

In a brief statement, the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for attacking troops in Orakzai.

Pakistan has seen a surge in militant violence in recent years, most of it claimed by the Pakistani Taliban. The group, separate from but allied with the Afghan Taliban, has been emboldened since the latter group seized power in Kabul in 2021. Many Pakistani Taliban leaders and fighters are believed to be operating from sanctuaries across the border in Afghanistan.

In a statement, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised the security forces for killing militants and paid tribute to the troops who lost their lives.

The military said the slain soldiers included Lt. Col. Junaid Arif and Maj. Tayyab Rahat, who "fought gallantly and embraced martyrdom" along with nine other soldiers.



Cameroon's President Paul Biya delivers a speech during a political rally at Lamido Yaya Dairou Stadium in Maroua, Cameroon on Oct 7. (AP)

Cameroon's prez campaigns

Cameroon's 92-year-old President Paul Biya appeared Tuesday at his first campaign rally for the upcoming election in which the world's oldest head of state is seeking his eighth term.

Addressing a crowd of supporters at a stadium in the Far North town of Maroua, Biya promised to step up security in the region plagued by extremist attacks, curb youth unemployment and improve road infrastructure and social amenities if he is reelected in Sunday's vote.

"I am well aware of the problems that concern you, I know the unfulfilled expectations that make you doubt the future," he said in his speech. "Based on my own experience, I can assure you that these problems are not insurmountable." (AP)

Lat/Am

'Strip Costa Rica president's immunity': Costa Rica's Supreme Electoral Tribunal asked the country's National Assembly on Tuesday to strip President Rodrigo Chaves of his immunity so he can face charges that he has been using his bully pulpit to meddle in upcoming elections.

The request came just two weeks after a historic vote by the congress to reject another attempt to lift the president's immunity so that he could be prosecuted on corruption charges. Costa Rica's Supreme Court had made that request of the congress.

The electoral court says that Chaves has repeatedly violated the prohibition on public officials participating

in or referencing issues related to the election. (AP)



Argentina to extradite businessman: The government of Argentina's President Javier Milei said on Tuesday that it would extradite an Argentine businessman to face drug trafficking and money laundering charges in the United States, the latest development in a politically explosive case that has tainted an ally of the libertarian president.

Milei's office said that he had instructed the Foreign Ministry and other officials "to immediately take the administrative and diplomatic steps necessary" to comply with a Supreme Court decision issued earlier Tuesday approving the extradition of the businessman, Fred Machado. (AP)

Kuwait oil price surges to \$66.89 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by 19 cents to USD 66.89 per barrel on Tuesday, compared to Monday’s USD 66.70 per barrel, said the Kuwait Petroleum Cor-

poration (KPC) on Tuesday. In global markets, the price of the Brent crude went down by 2 cents to USD 65.45 per barrel, while the West Texas Intermediate climbed up by 4 cents to USD 61.73 pb.

Business

First-of-its-kind collaboration delivers secure cloud connectivity

ZainTECH in collaboration with Zain Kuwait and ZOI, partner with Microsoft to accelerate government digital transformation in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: ZainTECH, the integrated digital solutions provider of Zain Group, in collaboration with Zain Kuwait and Zain Omantel International (ZOI), today announced the launch of Microsoft Azure ExpressRoute on the Azure Marketplace, marking a milestone first-of-its-kind alliance across Zain entities.

This listing enables government and enterprise customers in Kuwait to procure secure, private, and compliant connectivity to Microsoft Azure directly through the Azure Marketplace, considerably simplifying access to world-class cloud infrastructure. For customers with existing Azure agreements, ExpressRoute can now be purchased using existing Microsoft Azure consumption credits, streamlining procurement and accelerating time to value.

ExpressRoute provides a dedicated, low-latency connection to Microsoft data centers in the UAE and Europe, enabling mission-critical workloads that demand high performance, enhanced security, and guaranteed data residency, all while maintaining compliance with Kuwait’s national regulations and

- Collaboration sees the launch of Microsoft Azure ExpressRoute, a secure, and high-speed cloud connectivity on the Azure Marketplace.
- In support of Kuwait’s Vision 2035, government and enterprise customers in Kuwait can now easily access private, high-performance Azure connectivity.

standards.

Andrew Hanna, CEO of ZainTECH, commented: “Helping governments and enterprises become more digital, intelligent and resilient is what all Zain enti-

ties aim for. The availability of ExpressRoute on the Azure Marketplace is a game-changer for customers in Kuwait. It removes friction from the procurement process and makes it easier than ever for entities to leverage Microsoft’s cloud, using their existing agreements and credits. This is how we accelerate real transformation: by combining secure, high-speed connectivity with operational simplicity.”

This collaboration between ZainTECH, Zain Kuwait, ZOI, and Microsoft represents a new standard for cloud connectivity in Kuwait, one that is fast, compliant, resilient, and easy to adopt. It also supports Kuwait’s Vision 2035 and the country’s broader digital modernization goals by unlocking the next generation of intelligent, cloud-enabled government and enterprise services.

This initiative underscores ZainTECH’s ongoing commitment to empowering governments and enterprises with next-generation infrastructure capabilities that strengthen resilience, accelerate modernization, and advance regional digital transformation.



Other Voices

Kuwait makes return to global capital markets

By Attorney Abdulrahman Al-Houti

THE issuance of Kuwaiti sovereign bonds exceeding \$11 billion witnessed unprecedented demand from investors, surpassing all previous sovereign issuances in emerging markets. This raises questions as to why Kuwaiti bonds were received with such strong enthusiasm by investors worldwide.

To answer this, it is important to clarify that Kuwait’s return to the global debt market was not welcomed merely because it is a wealthy country with financial surpluses. Rather, it was the legal environment in Kuwait that endowed these issuances with significant appeal to major investors.

The legal provisions governing public debt, along with the judicial and legislative guarantees available, all contributed to investors viewing Kuwaiti bonds as a safe and reliable investment. Thus, in this context, the law was not merely a regulatory framework but the primary driver that strengthened investor confidence and ensured the successful re-entry of Kuwait into the global financial market.

For greater clarity, the issuance of Kuwaiti bonds in international markets is governed by a fundamental legislative instrument that established the legal infrastructure enabling Kuwait to return with confidence to international capital markets: Law No. (60) of 2025 on Finance and Liquidity. This law set the general framework for public debt and borrowing from global markets and allowed for the issuance of long-term instruments, which was one of the key factors attracting capital to invest in the issued sovereign bonds.

Additionally, government reforms related to the domestic investment environment, along with a more open investment policy to-

ward foreign capital, contributed to the integration of the legal framework. This provides a secure regulatory cover that encourages investors to engage confidently with Kuwaiti investment opportunities.

This leads to the question of the key guarantees available to participants in Kuwaiti bonds.

From a legal standpoint, investors in Kuwaiti bonds enjoy several safeguards that make this financial instrument particularly secure. Foremost among these is the sovereign guarantee, which obliges the Kuwaiti government to pay both principal and interest on schedule. Coupled with Kuwait’s strong financial position and the substantial reserves of its sovereign funds, there are compelling reasons to maintain high confidence in the government’s performance and obligations in this regard.

Moreover, the legal strength arising from strict financial legislation regulating the budget and defining expenditure and revenue allocations further positions Kuwaiti bonds among the safest havens in the world for safeguarding investors’ rights.

Kuwaiti laws governing the general budget and investment instruments exhibit a high degree of stability, having not undergone drastic amendments that could disrupt capital markets or affect bondholders. This legislative stability serves as a key factor in reassuring investors.

Further reinforcing these guarantees is Kuwait’s strong commitment to international standards. In recent years, it has implemented substantial legal amendments in the field of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing to better align with emerging global challenges. Additionally, it has adopted Basel III standards to ensure the stability of the banking system. Together, these measures indicate that the investment environment in Kuwait is governed by clear global standards, following a transparent path aimed at protecting financial rights, complying with national laws, and fulfilling multiple international agreements.



Al-Houti

2025: A record-breaking year for NBK in training national talents

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Guided by its philosophy that sees human capital investment as the foundation of sustainable growth, National Bank of Kuwait successfully concluded its 2025 training program for university students, which saw the biggest batch of trainees in the history of NBK, reaching 124 students, and reflecting the bank’s growing role as a leading supporter of youth empowerment and national talent development.

The number of participants reached 124 male and female students from 32 local and international universities, who underwent an intensive practical experience that extended to more than 11,330 training hours, distributed across 30 different departments at the bank. Female students constituted the largest percentage at 54% (67 female trainees), compared to 46% for male trainees (57).

These figures, which are the largest in the bank’s history, are not passing statistics; rather, they represent a clear strategic approach that confirms that NBK is actively and competently contributing to shaping the leaders of the future.

Moreover, this program is one of the cornerstones of the bank’s sustainability strategy that aims to up-skill students and provide them with practical experiences that combines academic education with real-life experience within the banking environment, paving the way for them to build successful future career paths.

The program also represents a significant platform to expose students to the different aspects of the banking sector through specialized training in banking services, digital transformation, AI, cybersecurity, data analysis, marketing, in addition to leadership, communication, and teamwork skills.

On this occasion, Gadeer Al-Kooheji, VP - Head of Talent Acquisition, Group Human Resources at National Bank of Kuwait, said: “Guided by our commitment to social responsibility, we are actively contributing to preparing a national generation that is professional and competent. This number of trainees and participants is only a testament to the quality of our national human capital investment, for we see a leader in every talent. Moreover, we are committed to providing all resources



Gadeer Al-Kooheji

needed to bring the trainees’ aspirations to reality in a way that serves Kuwait and achieves national economic sustainability”.

Al-Kooheji added: “These hours spent were not just traditional training, but rather a practical experience in which the trainees’ skills were elevated in 30 different departments within the bank, through a diverse and comprehensive set of programs that enhanced their various skills and provided them with a deep understanding of the nature of banking”.

Furthermore, she noted: “NBK is distinguished for its unconventional training style, as it strives to enable the trainees by giving them a space for trial and error, through which they can learn under the supervision of experts. Moreover, the bank’s learning and development strategy is a continuous and deeply rooted corporate culture at NBK. This is why the work environment suits those who have high ambition to obtain leadership positions, because we do not prepare an employee to do a task; we prepare national professionals to lead a bright future”.

Al-Kooheji also pointed out that the bank is constantly striving to promote diversity, inclusion, and equality as a driving force for innovation, as reflected in the female participation ratios. Empowering women is not just a slogan but is part and parcel of our corporate culture and a key driver of our success. This balance reflects a deep belief that a more diverse work environment is more creative and productive.

Finally, she noted that NBK believes in its role as a leading financial

- Al-Kooheji:**
- This year’s historical participation reflects the quality of our national human capital investment.
 - NBK’s learning and development strategy is an unceasing and deeply rooted corporate culture.
 - NBK is the first and most preferred workplace for highly passionate and ambitious people.
 - Not only does NBK lead today’s generation, but it also contributes to making tomorrow’s leaders.
 - The bank is strongly keen to encourage innovation by instilling diversity, inclusion, and equality, which are highly evident in the female participation ratios.
 - The program echoes NBK’s strategic pillars of sustainability.



NBK headquarters

institution committed to its social responsibility, effectively contributing to strengthening and sustaining the Kuwaiti economy in line with Vision 2035. This is achieved by equipping national professionals with the skills and expertise necessary to face rapid technological developments and ensuring the participation of young talents capable of leading the banking sector for decades to come.

NBK is committed to enhancing its leading position among private sector institutions in attracting and upskilling national talents. The bank also strongly supports and develops youth and students through the latest training programs, making them a significant resource for public and private sector institutions in the future, which should consequently enhance human resources sustainability in Kuwait.

Kuwait’s real estate market witnesses exceptional growth in 2025

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Real estate expert Ali Al-Saffar says the year 2025 continues to witness remarkable growth in the real estate sector, with significant commercial activity in the Kuwaiti market in investment, commercial, and private sectors.

He pointed out that trading indicators up to the end of the third quarter of the year reflect an exceptional surge in both the volume and value of transactions compared to previous years.

In an exclusive statement to the daily, Al-Saffar explained that the total value of real estate transactions by the end of Q3 2025 reached approximately KD 3.077 billion, distributed as follows:

- KD 1.160 billion in the private sector,
- KD 1.235 billion in the investment sector,
- KD 682 million in the commercial sector.

These figures make 2025 the second highest year in terms of commercial real estate trading so far and that it could take the lead if the current pace continues through the end of the year. The total commercial transactions are expected to exceed the KD 745 million recorded in 2024. This momentum reflects a gradual return of confidence in the commercial real estate market, supported by stable interest rates, increased demand for income-generating properties, and a growing trend among investors to diversify their real estate portfolios amid improving general economic indicators.

Al-Saffar emphasized that continued strong performance in the fourth quarter would make 2025 one of the most active years in Kuwait’s real estate market over the past two decades, particularly in the commercial sector, which is expected to see more high-quality deals and new development projects in several areas of the country.

Major transformations

Al-Saffar stressed that Kuwait’s commercial real estate market has undergone several transformations over the past twenty years, influenced by various economic and financial factors, including oil prices, interest rates, and laws regulating property ownership and investment.

He stated that 2025 represents a notable period of activity, and the commercial sector may achieve its highest trading volume in 20 years.

Al-Saffar explained that the average trading volume in the investment sector over the past two decades was around KD 1.1 billion annually, while the commercial sector averaged about KD 380 million. Together, this gives a combined average of KD 1.48 billion annually. This highlights the important role of non-residential real estate in the Kuwaiti economy.

Growth drivers

Al-Saffar attributed the ongoing market momentum to the scarcity of new commercial properties, the absence of newly designated commercial zones, the return of expatriates after the COVID-19 crisis, and restrictive laws on residential property ownership, adding that these factors pushed investors to diversify into investment and commercial properties.

He indicated that investors typically shift between real estate sectors depending on fair value. When residential property prices rise to unreasonable levels, capital tends to move towards commercial and investment sectors to balance returns and risks.

Al-Saffar said the year 2014 remains a milestone in Kuwait’s real estate history because it showed a clear correlation between the real estate market and oil prices. Just as the state depends on oil for revenues, the real estate market depends on oil price levels as a signal for activity and liquidity.

Real estate trading over 20 years

Investment sector:

- Highest: 2014 with KD 2.106 billion
- Lowest: 2020 with KD 486 million

Commercial sector:

- Highest: 2019 with KD 619 million
- Lowest: 2004 with KD 76 million

Combined investment and commercial sectors:

- Highest: 2014 with KD 2.72 billion
- Lowest: 2004 with KD 780 million

Sector and regional performance

Al-Saffar explained that price comparisons over the past decade show a clear variation in performance between sectors

and governorates. The investment sector recorded its highest average in Hawally Governorate in 2014, with prices 13 percent above current levels.

Other governorates saw varying increases:

- Ahmadi: 17 percent
- Farwaniya: 15 percent
- Mubarak Al-Kabeer: 4 percent

In the commercial sector, the scarcity of available land has led to continuous price increases. Between 2014 and 2024, average price increases per square meter were as follows:

- Capital Governorate: 44 percent
- Jahra: 23 percent
- Ahmadi: 12 percent
- Farwaniya: 7 percent
- Hawally: 5 percent

Three historic peaks

Al-Saffar explained that the market experienced three historic peaks when total real estate transactions exceeded KD 4 billion - in 2007, 2014, and 2021. However, the nature of each peak was different.

Although 2021 recorded the third highest overall trading value, it ranked as the fourth lowest in investment and commercial transactions, which made up only 23 percent of the total market. This was largely due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which reduced occupancy rates and prompted investors to shift toward the safer residential sector, where transactions totaled KD 2.955 billion.

In contrast, 2014 witnessed the highest level of investment real estate trading at KD 2.106 billion. The combined share of investment and commercial sectors reached approximately 55 percent, supported by property-related legislation such as the ban on land monopolies and restrictions on corporate ownership of residential properties. Also, interest rates were at a record low of 2 percent, and oil prices exceeded 100 dollars per barrel, making 2014 the peak year for real estate activity in Kuwait.

Furthermore, 2018 marked the highest market value for the combined investment and commercial sectors. This was driven by regulatory changes, particularly the electricity and water tariff law,

which stimulated movement between sectors and led to what Al-Saffar described as a “role-swapping” among investors. Trading activity increased as interest rates hovered around 3 percent and oil prices remained stable.

471 real estate transactions worth KD 351 million in September

Real estate transactions in the local market saw a noticeable decline in September 2025 compared to August, driven by a sharp 60 percent drop in commercial real estate trading and a 9.8 percent decline in residential properties. Meanwhile, the investment sector recorded a significant growth of about 20 percent.

According to the monthly report issued by the Real Estate Registration and Documentation Department of the Ministry of Justice, the total value of real estate deals in September reached about KD 350.8 million for 471 transactions, compared to KD 474.9 million for 514 transactions in August. This marks a 26.3 percent decrease in value and an 8.6 percent drop in the number of deals, which is the largest decline since the start of the second half of the year.

Breakdown by sector (September 2025):

■ Private residential sector: 307 deals worth KD 120 million, down by 9.8 percent from 351 deals worth KD 133 million in August.

■ Investment sector: 141 deals worth KD 118.5 million, up by 19.7 percent in value and nearly the same in volume, from 118 deals worth KD 99 million in August. This reflects sustained demand for income-generating properties amid stable rents and improved occupancy rates in investment areas

■ Commercial sector: Sharp decline of 60 percent from KD 240 million in August to KD 95.6 million in September, directly impacting total monthly trading value

■ Warehouses: Rebounded with six transactions worth KD 13.4 million.

■ Industrial (craft) sector: One transaction worth KD 1.6 million.

■ Coastal properties: One transaction worth KD 675 thousand (down from KD 1.4 million in August)

■ Exhibition spaces: One transaction worth KD 1 million.

In line with global economic and monetary developments and to exchange insights with leading international experts

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait Group participates in the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: As part of its ongoing commitment to staying abreast of and supporting global economic and monetary developments, the Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) Group is participating in the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group, held in Washington, D.C.

These meetings represent the most important global platform for shaping financial and monetary policies each year. They provide a unique opportunity for decision makers from around the world to assess the state of the global economy, public debt, and interest rate trends, and to discuss key topics and policy recommendations that contribute to strengthening financial stability and achieving sustainable growth.

On this occasion, **Mr. Abdulla Al Sumait**, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer at Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, emphasized that participation in these meetings is essential for discussing economic and financial developments and



Mr. Abdulla Al Sumait
Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer

Al Sumait: These meetings are conducive for discussing issues that ensure global financial and monetary stability.

identifying joint solutions that ensure stability and prosperity. He noted that the current global landscape and geopolitical challenges call for concerted efforts and enhanced international monetary cooperation.

Al Sumait explained that representatives of the ABK Group are keen to present the Bank’s strategic plans in the countries where it operates, highlighting



ABK headquarters

its operational performance, the financial solutions and facilities it provides to retail and corporate clients, and its readiness to participate in major financing transactions locally, regionally, and

internationally.

He added that the Group’s representatives will take part in numerous sessions gathering finance policy makers, senior banking executives, and lead-



ing economists. Discussions will cover a wide range of monetary and fiscal policy topics of importance to participants, while also benefitting from the IMF’s technical expertise in supporting development and assisting countries and companies in achieving their goals. These meetings, he noted, serve as a valuable platform for setting proactive plans to sustain growth and advance economic objectives.

Al Sumait concluded: “Participating in such high-level global events enhances awareness of the Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait Group internationally, strengthens our relationships with global banks and major financial institutions, and reinforces our presence across the international banking, financial and investment landscape.”

Bank continues to strengthen position as a regional leader in financial excellence

ABK wins five prestigious awards from Global Finance

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has announced that it received five prestigious awards from Global Finance for 2025, reaffirming its position as one of the leading and most innovative financial institutions in Kuwait and the region.

The awards include: Best Consumer Digital Bank in the Middle East, Best User Experience (UX) Design in Kuwait, Best Mobile Banking App in Kuwait, Most Innovative Digital Bank in Kuwait, and Best in Transformation in Kuwait. These accolades underscore ABK’s commitment to excellence in digital innovation, customer experience, and performance enhancement across all its operations.

The award ceremony took place in London, attended by **Khalil Al-Qattan**, Chief Digital Transformation and Innovation Officer at ABK. The event celebrated the achievements of global leaders and brought together banking professionals from around the globe to celebrate achievements in the industry.

Commenting on the recognition, Khalil Al-Qattan stated,

“Being honored with five awards from Global Finance magazine highlights ABK’s success in embracing digital advancement in the banking sector. This achievement reflects our continuous efforts to introduce modern, customer-centric solutions that enhance trust and enable customers to manage their financial needs effortlessly and securely.”

He added that the awards from Global Finance are a continuation of the Bank’s recent achievements following the successful launch of ABK’s redesigned mobile application, offering customers a wide range of enhanced services with greater accessibility and convenience. “Our new app embodies the next phase of our digital transformation strategy, providing customers with seamless and secure access to banking services anytime and anywhere,” he said.

Al-Qattan further emphasized that ABK remains steadfast in its commitment to leveraging artificial intelligence and advanced digital technologies through strategic partnerships with specialized institutions. “We continue



Khalil Al-Qattan
Chief Digital Transformation & Innovation Officer

Khalil Al-Qattan:
■ These awards reflect our success in keeping pace with the digital evolution of the banking industry.
■ We continue to innovate solutions that save our customers time and effort while advancing financial inclusion across all segments.

to invest in digital transformation across all business lines, ensuring we remain agile and responsive to the evolving needs of our customers in a dynamic market,” he noted.

He concluded by acknowledging the collective efforts of ABK employees, whose collaboration across departments continues to drive innovation and operational excellence. “Our team’s dedication enables us to deliver products and services that align with our customers’ ambitions and contribute to achieving financial inclusion while reinforcing ABK’s competitive edge in Kuwait’s banking sector,” Al-Qattan said.

ABK continues to implement multiple initiatives as part of its ongoing digital transformation journey. These efforts are contributing to the Bank’s long-term vision of maintaining sustainable growth, strengthening its market position, and delivering an exceptional banking experience that sets new standards of excellence in Kuwait and beyond.

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that offers a wide array of personal, corporate, and private banking products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital.

Across the region, the Bank of-



Khalil Al-Qattan receiving awards during the ceremony



Global Finance Awards

fers individuals and corporates the convenience of comprehensive banking and financial services in the Egyptian market through ABK-Egypt’s network of 46 branches.

This is in addition to ABK’s three branches located in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC)

in the United Arab Emirates, servicing both Kuwaiti and Emirati individual and corporate clients.

ABK is a strong supporter of Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association’s ‘Let’s Be Aware’ awareness campaign. Through its various initiatives, the Bank aims to promote financial inclusion by



Best Digital Bank Award 2025

educating Kuwaiti society about customer rights, responsibilities, and the different types of banking and special needs services. Additionally, ABK consistently provides strategic information on how to avoid banking and financial fraud, loan application requirements, digital services, and more.

For more information about ABK, please follow the Bank’s Instagram account @abk_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank’s branches across Kuwait.

Held at KIF from 6 to 11 October

KFH showcases its financing services at Baytak Exhibition

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: In line with its commitment to providing a range of the best financing solutions that cater to customers’ design and construction demands, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) is participating as a main sponsor of the Baytak Exhibition – Building and Design from A to Z.

Running from 6 to 11 October, the exhibition is Kuwait’s largest event for construction and building held at the Kuwait International Fair (KIF) in Halls 5 and 6. It features participation from different local entities and representatives of renowned global companies and brands in the industry.

Executive Manager Personal Finance Products at KFH, Abdulaziz Alsaeed, said that the financing products offered by the Bank are distinctive and diverse. They include the housing financing product, covering property purchase, construction, and renovation, with a financing of up to KD

70,000 and a credit period of up to 15 years. In addition, KFH provides its customers with several benefits, including a deferred first installment for 12 months from the date of financing. These benefits help facilitate and ease the financial burden on customers.

He added that KFH has partnered with leading local suppliers to offer special promotions covering the latest and best equipment in the construction field. KFH also provides offers and discounts to attract investors and interested individuals, capitalizing on the growth in the real estate and construction sector currently witnessed in the country.

Alsaeed further emphasized that the financing solutions offered by KFH are various including the financing against cash collaterals. It is determined by the blocked value of the deposit amount in the customer’s account, allowing the customer



Abdulaziz Alsaeed

to continue earning profits on the deposit. Customers can conveniently submit their financing applications through KFHOnline. He also noted that KFH provides financing against gold account collateral, the first of its kind in Kuwait. “This product enables

customers to obtain financing secured by the value of gold bullions available in their gold account,” explained Alsaeed, “This allows customers to benefit from the value of their gold without selling it, making this financing product one of the most innovative solutions designed to enhance the customer experience and meet their needs.”

Alsaeed pointed out that KFH offers a deferred installment service (KFH Pass), enabling customers to postpone one installment each year. This feature provides customers with the flexibility to select which month to skip payment annually during the financing period, in line with their personal financial needs.

A dedicated booth staffed by a specialized team was present in the exhibition. The team addressed all inquiries from customers and visitors. They also showcased KFH’s financing products and solutions that cover building requirements at all stag-

es of construction.

KFH’s participation in the exhibition as a strategic partner underscores its leading economic role in financing construction projects and supporting the urban development movement that contributes to national development and drives economic growth. It also reflects the Bank’s pioneering contribution to supporting and ensuring the success of events, activities, and exhibitions that discuss and highlight key issues and achievements closely linked to Kuwait’s economic landscape, particularly those related to vital sectors such as industry, construction, and building.

Baytak exhibition represents an opportunity for direct engagement with customers, as KFH showcases its financing services alongside participating companies, while strengthening partnerships and coordination with suppliers and merchants to meet all customer needs.

‘Buckle Up,’ says IMF chief on persistent economic volatility

Global growth forecast slightly lower at 3%

WASHINGTON, Oct 8, (AP): The global economy is holding up better than expected despite major shocks such as President Donald Trump’s tariffs, but the head of the International Monetary Fund says that resilience may not last.

“Buckle up,” Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva says in prepared remarks to a think tank Wednesday. “Uncertainty is the new normal and it is here to stay.”

Her comments at the Milken Institute come on a day when gold prices hit \$4,000 an ounce for the first time as investors seek safe haven from a weaker dollar and geopolitical uncertainty and before the IMF and World Bank hold their annual meetings next week in Washington. Trump’s trade penalties are expected to be in sharp focus when global finance leaders and central bankers gather.

The worldwide economy is forecast to grow by 3% this year, and Georgieva is citing a number of factors for why it may not slip below that: Countries have put in place decisive economic policies, the private sector has adapted and the tariffs have proved less severe than originally feared.

“But before anyone heaves a big sigh of relief, please hear this: Global resilience has not yet been fully tested. And there are worrying signs the test may come. Just look at the surging global demand for gold,” she says in her prepared remarks.

On Trump’s tariffs, she says “the full effect is still to unfold. In the U.S., margin compression could give way to more price pass-through, raising inflation with implications for monetary policy and growth.”

The Republican administration imposed import taxes on nearly all U.S. trading partners in April, including Canada, Mexico, Brazil, China and even the tiny African nation of Lesotho. “We’re the king of being screwed by tariffs,” Trump said Tuesday in the Oval Office during a meeting with Canadian Prime



International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva speaks during a news conference during the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings in Washington, Oct. 24, 2024. (AP)

Minister Mark Carney.

While the U.S. has announced some trade frameworks with nations such as the United Kingdom and Vietnam, the tariffs have created uncertainty worldwide.

“Elsewhere, a flood of goods previously destined for the U.S. market could trigger a second round of tariff hikes,” Georgieva says.

The Supreme Court next month will hear arguments about whether Trump has the authority to impose some of his tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

In her wide-ranging remarks, Georgieva points to youth discontent around the world as many young people foresee a future where they earn less than their parents. She also is calling for greater internal trade in Asia, more business friendly changes in Africa and more competitiveness in Europe.

For the United States, Georgieva is urging the government to address the federal debt and to encourage household saving.

The IMF is a 191-country lending organization that seeks to promote global growth and financial stability and to reduce poverty.

Canadian visits to US drop 23% amid tariff disputes

Trump says Canadians will travel to the US again after a trade deal is worked out

WASHINGTON, Oct 8, (AP): President Donald Trump predicted that Canadians will travel to the United States once again after a trade deal is reached. Trump told reporters in the Oval Office while meeting with Prime Minister Mark Carney on Tuesday that he understands why many Canadians are refusing to visit.

Trump’s talk of making Canada the 51st state to avoid tariffs has infuriated Canadians, who are canceling trips to the U.S. in big numbers. There’s been a 23% drop in Canadian visits to the U.S. in the first seven months of the year versus the same period in 2024, according to Canada’s national statistical office.

“I understand that. Look, I understand that,” Trump said before predicting Canada and the U.S. would ultimately reach a deal.

“It’s something that will get worked out. There’s still great love between the two countries but you know American people want product here, they want to make it here,” Trump said. “We are competing for the same business. That’s the problem. That’s why I keep mentioning one way to solve that problem. There’s a very easy way.”

Trump has often said that Canada could avoid tariffs by becoming the 51st state. The repeated jabs about the U.S. acquiring Canada have alienated Canadian travelers.

“The people of Canada, they will love us again,” Trump said. “Most of them still do. If you say only 25%, I assume a lot of them. I think they love us.”

“It’s not bad. They’ll come back,” Carney told Trump.

Carney made his second visit to the Oval Office ahead of next year’s review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement and as one of the world’s most durable and amicable alliances has been fractured by Trump’s trade war and annexation threats.

Trump said he was open to extending the free trade agreement with Mexico and Canada through a renegotiation or seeking “different deals.”

The free trade agreement was enacted during Trump’s first term, and it allows the majority of Canadian and Mexican goods to be shipped to the U.S. without tariffs. But Trump has made it clear since returning to office that he wants to reshape the relationship, and he expressed ambivalence over the process as long as he feels like he’s able to improve America’s position.

“We could renegotiate it, and that would be good, or we can just do different deals,” he said. “We’re allowed to do different deals if we want. We might make deals that are better for the individual countries.”



US President Donald Trump welcomes Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney to the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025. (AP)

Carney entered the visit hoping to find some relief on sector-specific tariffs. Trump has some sector-specific tariffs on Canada, known as Section 232 tariffs, that are having an impact. There are 50% tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, for example.

After the meeting, Dominic LeBlanc, the minister responsible for Canada-U.S. trade, described the talks as “successful” and “positive” on trade issues, though he noted the conversation would continue. He said Canada was looking to get a deal done quickly on steel and aluminum.

There is fear in Canada over what will happen to the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which is critical to Canada’s economy. More than three-quarters of Canada’s exports go to the U.S.

Trump showed a fondness for Carney - something he didn’t have toward Carney’s predecessor, Justin Trudeau - but noted there was a “natural conflict” between the two countries, a point to which the prime minister politely disagreed.

“We want Canada to do great,” Trump said. “But you know, there’s a point at which we also want the same business.”

Asked why the U.S. and Canada had failed to reach a deal on trade, Trump said it’s a complicated situation. “We have natural conflict,” he said. “We also have mutual love.”

Carney said he wouldn’t use the word “conflict.” “There are areas where we compete, and it’s in those areas where we have to come to an agreement that works. But there are more areas where we are stronger together, and that’s what we’re focused on.”

The U.S. president made a joking reference to a “merger” between the two countries at the top of his remarks Tuesday.

Relations with Canada’s southern neighbor and longtime ally are at a low point.

“We’ve had ups and downs, but this is the lowest point in relations that I can recall,” said Frank McKenna, a former Canadian ambassador to the United States.

“I talk every day to ordinary citizens who are changing their vacation plans, and I talk to large business owners who are moving reward trips away or executive business trips,” McKenna said. “There is an outright rebellion.”

Silver jumps nearly 60%

Gold futures rise above \$4,000 for the first time

NEW YORK, Oct 8, (AP): Gold futures soared above \$4,000 per troy ounce for the first time Tuesday, as many investors seek a safe place to park their money during the continuing U.S. government shutdown.

The going price for New York spot gold had previously closed at \$3,960.60 per troy ounce - the standard for measuring precious metals - on Monday.

Gold sales can rise sharply when anxious investors seek secure investments for their money. Even before the shutdown, the asset - and other metals, like silver - had seen wide gains over the last year, as President Donald Trump’s barrage of tariffs cause uncertainty around the outlook for the global economy. More recently, the prospect of lower interest rates has also made gold a more attractive investment than interest-bearing investments.

Gold futures are up about 50% since the start of 2025 - trading at about \$4,003 per troy ounce just after 4 p.m. ET Tuesday. That’s up from around \$2,670 at the beginning of January.

Silver has seen an even bigger percentage jump year to date. Silver futures are up nearly 60%, trading at under \$48 per troy ounce Tuesday afternoon.

A lot of it boils down to uncertainty. Interest in buying metals like gold typically spikes when investors become anxious.

Much of the recent economic turmoil has spanned from Trump’s trade wars. Since the start of 2025, steep new tariffs the president has imposed on goods coming into the U.S. from around the world have strained businesses and consumers alike - pushing costs higher and helping to weaken the job market. As a result, hiring has plunged while inflation has inched back up. And more and more consumers are expressing pessimism about the road ahead.

The U.S. government shutdown has added to those anxieties. Key economic data has been delayed - and scores of federal employees are already feeling the effects of furloughs and working without pay as long as the shutdown lasts, which has no immediate end in sight. Trump has also threatened to use the shutdown to conduct mass firings and perhaps permanently shutter offices in attempt to punish Democrats for voting down GOP legislation.

Giovanni Staunovo, commodity analyst at UBS Global Wealth Management, also points to continued weakness of the U.S. dollar and renewed rate cuts from the Federal Reserve.

Last month, the Fed cut its key interest rate by a quarter-point - and projected it would do so twice more this year.

Investments in gold have also been driven by other factors over time. Analysts have previously pointed to strong gold demand from central banks around the world - including amid heightened geopolitical tensions, such as the ongoing wars in Gaza and Ukraine.

“The gold rally started in 2022,” Staunovo said via email on Tuesday. He noted that the “trigger point” was when the U.S. and other Western allies moved to freeze around \$300 billion of Russian foreign holdings at the beginning of the war in Ukraine.

Many jewelry merchants and dealers have increasingly reported surges in customers looking to check the value of gold they own - sometimes opting to melt or sell family heirlooms to cash in on the precious metal’s rising price.

At the same time, those in the market for gold jewelry may be feeling “sticker shock” if they can’t afford certain products anymore - particularly if it’s something impacted by both rising material costs and tariffs.

Larger retailers like Pandora and Signet, whose brands include Zales and Kay Jewelers, have acknowledged these headwinds in recent earnings calls.

“If I’m a guessing man here, we will see a general price rise for the category,” Pandora CEO Alexander Lacik said in an August earnings call, pointing to rising costs of gold and silver, as well as tariffs, industrywide.

Advocates of investing in gold call it a “safe haven” - arguing the commodity can serve to diversify and balance your investment portfolio, as well as mitigate possible risks down the road as a hedge against rising inflation. Some also take comfort in buying something tangible that has the potential to increase in value over time.

Still, experts caution against putting all your eggs in one basket. And not everyone agrees gold is a good investment. Critics say gold isn’t always the inflation hedge many claim - and that there are more efficient ways to protect against potential loss of capital, such as derivative-based investments.

“Gold is perceived by many market participants as a safe haven asset. But investors need to be aware it has a volatility of 10-15%,” Staunovo noted. He added that smaller amounts of physical gold, such as gold coins or 1-gram bars, have larger ranges between buying and selling prices.

EU unveils new protections for farmers against Mercosur deal

BRUSSELS, Oct 8, (AP): The European Union’s executive arm on Wednesday unveiled detailed proposals to protect farmers from being undercut by imports from South America as it seeks to build support for its deal with the Mercosur trade alliance.

The deal between the EU and the five Mercosur countries - Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia - would progressively remove duties on almost all goods traded between the two blocs over the next 15 years. Provided it is ratified by both blocs, the accord would create one of the world’s largest free trade zones, covering a market of 780 million people that represents nearly a quarter of global gross domestic product.

However, it has faced vehement opposition from Europe’s agriculture sector. The proposals unveiled Wednesday would give farmers new mechanisms to complain and force the European Commission to investigate trade imbalances stemming from the Mercosur deal.

A commission statement said that the proposal would increase protections so that in the “unlikely event of an unforeseen and harmful surge in imports from Mercosur or an undue decrease in prices for EU producers, swift and effective protections would kick into gear.”

The commission says it would launch investigations if import prices from Mercosur are at least 10% lower than the prices of the same or competing EU products. If there is serious injury, preferential tariffs could be temporarily withdrawn.

There are also special provisions for

sensitive sectors including beef, eggs and ethanol.

The EU-Mercosur deal, which was agreed in December after nearly 25 years of negotiations, must be approved by the bloc’s 27 member states, as well as the European Parliament.

From Spanish ham and French wine to Dutch dairy and Greek olives, agriculture is central to the European Union’s budget, economy, culture and politics. The EU exported 235.4 billion euros (\$272 billion) worth of agricultural goods in 2024.

Yet the sector is aflame with tensions.

In February, driven by activist agricultural organizations and the complaints of hard-right parties, the commission vowed to slash red tape for farmers and more equitably distribute annual 50 billion euro (\$58 billion) subsidies spread across the 27-nation bloc.

Disgruntled farmers used tractors to paralyze many European capitals as part of a campaign lionized by the far right in the runup to their successful showing in EU-wide elections in 2024.

Many farmers loathe the Mercosur deal, but its proponents in Brussels say it would save businesses some \$4.26 billion in duties each year, slashing red tape and removing tariffs on products like Italian wine, Argentine steak, Brazilian oranges and German Volkswagens.

Its critics in France, the Netherlands and other countries with big dairy and beef industries say the pact would subject local farmers to unfair competition and cause environmental damage.

Singer dispels a few rumors on Jimmy Fallon show

Swift didn't reject 2026 Super Bowl halftime show

NEW YORK, Oct 8, (AP): Taylor Swift says she did not turn down the 2026 Super Bowl halftime show, which will be headlined by Bad Bunny.

"The Life of a Showgirl" singer paid a visit to "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" on Monday and dispelled a few rumors. Most notably, she shared she did not turn down the NFL's biggest stage because she wouldn't be allowed to own the performance footage, as claimed in a popular internet rumor.

"No, no, no," Swift said. The Super Bowl halftime show is produced by the NFL, Apple Music and Roc Nation - the latter founded by music mogul Jay-Z.

"Jay-Z has always been very good to me. Our teams are really close. Like, they sometimes will call and say, 'How does she feel about the Super Bowl?' And that's not like an official offer or, like, an official conference room conversation," Swift told Fallon. "We're always able to tell him the truth, which is that, like, I am in love with a

guy who does that sport on that actual field," she continued, referring to fiancé Travis Kelce - a star tight end for the Kansas City Chiefs and a Super Bowl champion.

"Like, that is violent chess. That is gladiators without swords. That is dangerous. The whole season I am locked in on what that man is doing on the field," she said.

"Can you imagine if he's out there every single week, like putting his life on the line, doing this very dangerous, very high pressure, high intensity sport and I'm like, 'I wonder what my choreo(graphy) should be?'" Swift joked.

"I think we should do two verses of 'Shake It Off' into 'Blank Space' into 'Cruel Summer'

would be great.' And this is nothing to do with Travis, he would love for me to do it, I'm just too locked in."

Last month, it was announced that global superstar Bad Bunny will bring his Latin trap, reggaeton swagger and Puerto Rican pride to the Super Bowl live from Levi's Stadium on Feb. 8 in Santa Clara, California.

It's an ideal casting: Bad Bunny is fresh off a historic Puerto Rico residency that drew more than half a million fans and is leading all nominees at the Latin Grammys in November.

"What I'm feeling goes beyond myself," Bad Bunny said in a statement. "It's for those who came before me and ran countless yards so I could come in and score a touchdown... this is for my people, my culture, and our history."

On Saturday, Bad Bunny hosted the season 51 premiere of "Saturday Night Live" with a few jokes about his forthcoming Super Bowl halftime show.

Film

Roberts, Garfield lead provocative campus saga

Truth, lies and drama in 'After the Hunt'

VENICE, Italy, Oct 8, (AP): Andrew Garfield would like everyone to know about his gesticulating. Not in his performance as a Yale philosophy professor accused of sexual misconduct in "After the Hunt," but while discussing an actor's responsibility to comment on the work they're putting out in the world.

It's a blue-sky day outside the luxurious Hotel Cipriani and Garfield is seated alongside his co-stars Julia Roberts and Ayo Edebiri discussing a film that has, for better or worse, become the topic of some spirited debates. Just a few days prior at the Venice Film Festival, journalists at a press conference asked Roberts and filmmaker Luca Guadagnino if the film undermines the feminist movement.

"I don't think it's the actor's responsibility at all to express anything in public. Ever," Garfield said, using his hands for extra emphasis. "Please, tell them about the gesticulation."

Roberts chimed in: "The hair as well." (It was bouncing).

With "After the Hunt," in theaters Friday, Guadagnino and his actors knew they were making something thorny, something challenging, about messy, imperfect people whose lives, and lies, are upended with the accusation. They were ready to own the decision to use a typeface in the opening credits made famous by Woody Allen. But they had not anticipated the anti-feminist question, which was perhaps less a question than an accusation.

"This question was so tone deaf to the movie itself," Guadagnino said. "Like, you've mistaken the subject with the object."

The film is an ensemble piece about a few characters in and around Yale whose heady philosophical chats about agency and power become less theoretical under the glare of sticky real life dramas. Roberts plays Alma, a revered professor up for tenure alongside her colleague and flirty drinking buddy Hank (Garfield). Edebiri is a student named Maggie, a child of billionaires who everyone says is brilliant and who is a little obsessed with Alma.

After a boozy party at Alma's,



This image released by Amazon MGM Studios shows Julia Roberts in a scene from 'After the Hunt.' (AP)

Maggie comes to Alma first to tell her that Hank crossed the line. Hank denies anything happened and claims that Maggie is retaliating because he accused her of plagiarizing her thesis. No one knows quite who to believe. Alma, too, is harboring her own secrets. And everything in their world unravels in spectacularly melodramatic fashion.

The screenplay comes from Nora Garrett, who was working as a data analyst at Meta before her script caught the attention of Guadagnino and Roberts, in quick succession.

"The story really started with the character of Alma," Garrett said. "I was really interested in this idea of a woman who had a lie or something that she was deeply ashamed of at the core of her being."

But Alma's controlled compartmentalization of her past starts to unspool with Maggie's accusation. The part allows Roberts to do some of her best work in years.

"I'm saying something that might sound obvious, but she's one of the greatest stars and one of the great

actresses," Guadagnino said. "The symbol, the beauty of the symbol, and at the same time the truth of the performance. She's so three-dimensional."

Roberts was particularly fascinated by Alma's relationship with her husband, Frederik, a shrink played by Guadagnino regular Michael Stuhlbarg, whose unexpected choices had her in awe.

"I did catch myself watching him a couple of times instead of being in the scene and I was just like, 'Wow, that's so (expletive) good,'" Roberts said. "And then I think, 'Oh, I have a line.'"

She added: "The big fortune of getting older is having more life experience and intellectual resources to bring into something like this."

Guadagnino likes to shoot things quickly, which can be a little destabilizing for first timers. Garfield, who Guadagnino has been trying to work with for almost 20 years, had to do one of his most emotional scenes on his first day. He'd come straight from a very different kind of film where he was playing "a very goofy dad" and was panicked.

"I was really struggling to transition," Garfield said. "I wanted to make sure I came in as full and hot as possible. Before we had shot any takes I was just kind of pacing around just staying in (character). And then Luca comes up to me and I think he's going to give me some nugget and he's like 'Are you always going to be like this?'"

Garfield quickly came to understand that the combination of speed and lightness is part of Guadagnino's magic with actors.

"He wants urgency, he wants you to be a little bit on the balls of your feet," Garfield said. "So when it comes time to shoot, it's like the train has left the station and you just hold on for dear life or you get taken by it in a way. That's really excit-

ing."

Roberts didn't even remember a heated scene where she grabs Maggie by the face until she was watching the movie in Venice.

"I was so stunned," Roberts said. "I did not see that coming."

From the Woody Allen typeface to the mannered collegiate settings and intellectual conversations, the film is in many ways a throwback to classic films - not just Allen's but those of Mike Nichols and Joseph L. Mankiewicz's "All About Eve" as well.

"I thought a lot about films that have been able to resist the pressure of time and to become some insightful classics," Guadagnino said.

Perhaps the most inscrutable of the bunch is Maggie. Even Edebiri said she had some trouble wrapping her head around her motivations and actions.

"She's a tricky girl," Edebiri said. "A word Luca kept using a lot in conversations was displacement. Maggie's such a displaced person psychologically, but also as a transracial adoptee, and occupying this space full of these professors who are performing."

But the point for all are the questions, not the answers, and "After the Hunt" is not a film that wraps anything up in a tidy morality. Those conversations are for the audience to have.

"There are very few filmmakers who are alive for whom the priority is radical, vulnerable, unbridled self-expression and exploration and curiosity rather than something didactic," Garfield said. "The conversation is the thing, I think, that's the most we can ever dream of, that people will be confronted by their own response. The film hopefully is a mirror for every person watching, and then they can compare reflections with each other."



Channing Tatum, (left), and Kirsten Dunst pose for a portrait to promote the film 'Roofman' during the Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 7, 2025, in Toronto. (AP)

Method filmmaking

'Roofman' tells a 'crazy' true tale with precision

TORONTO, Oct 8, (AP): The lengths writer-director Derek Cianfrance goes to create immersive environments for his actors has grown into a kind of legend. After making the much-improvised doomed romance of "Blue Valentine" (2010), Michelle Williams said she would have to remind herself that she was never, actually, married to Ryan Gosling.

Cianfrance's last feature, 2016's "The Light Between the Oceans," was shot almost entirely at a remote New Zealand lighthouse. The making of that film did lead together its stars, Michael Fassbender and Alicia Vikander. So did Cianfrance's "The Place Beyond the Pines," with Gosling and Eva Mendes. Method filmmaking can produce real-life results.

But Cianfrance's ways are for a purpose. He wants his actors, as much as possible, to live in a movie. For his latest film, "Roofman," starring Channing Tatum and Kirsten Dunst, that approach was especially important because the story was so far-fetched.

"I wanted to immerse the entire cast in this story because it's a crazy story," Cianfrance said in an interview. "Jeff's actions are kind of unbelievable. I felt like just for me, to have my suspension of disbelief, I needed to be down there. I think that's why I do a lot of this immersion because I need to believe it. I need to believe it's actually happening."

In "Roofman," which Paramount Pictures releases Friday in theaters, Tatum plays Jeffrey Manchester, a US Army veteran who found civilian life difficult. In 1998, he began robbing McDonald's by sawing through roofs. He's believed to have robbed more than 40 stores. Both his novel entry point, and his reported cordial manner with employees, made the "Roofman" an intriguing figure on the local TV news.

In 2000, Manchester was caught in North Carolina and was later sentenced to 45 years in prison. But in 2004, he escaped and, to elude the authorities, hid out in a Charlotte Toys "R" Us. He clandestinely lived there for months, eating what was on the shelves, and, most audaciously, trying to live a seemingly normal life outside the store. He attended a local church and dated a woman named Leigh Wainscott (played by Dunst).

Believable

Mostly, the events of "Roofman" happened as they're portrayed. But how do you make a stranger-than-fiction tale believable? For the filmmakers of "Roofman," it meant going to some extreme lengths to give real-life authenticity to a made-for-Hollywood story. At a time when major studios seldom release star-led original films at all, let alone fiercely realistic ones shot on location, "Roofman" - a modest sized production cobbled together with an assortment of companies, including Miramax, FilmNation and Limelight - effectively tunneled its way to the big screen.

"I had many producers tell me: Why don't you shoot this in South Africa? You'll have double the amount of days," Cianfrance says, referencing the appeal of tax credits. "I said, 'Well, because the people aren't there, and the ghosts of this story aren't there.'"

Cianfrance wanted to shoot in the Toys "R" Us where Manchester hid out, but he couldn't. The toy chain went bankrupt in 2017, and the one where Manchester camped out in is now a mega church. So, he turned an abandoned Toys "R" Us in Pineville, North Carolina, into a nearly fully operational one. The production redid the electricity, added plumbing, installed new fluorescent lighting and stocked 40,000 square feet of shelves with truckloads of period-appropriate toys.

"That was my 'Fitzcarraldo,' bringing the steam ship over the mountain, building that Toys 'R' Us," Cianfrance says, chuckling.

That gave Tatum, whom Cianfrance had initially sought for "Blue Valentine," a box store sandbox in which to play. The biggest gift Cianfrance could give to Tatum, he felt, was "to unleash him in a toy store."

"It was 360, all around," says Tatum, speaking alongside Dunst. "It's not like this is a giant budget movie. It involved, like: 'There's not even enough toys from this era in the world to fill this place.' And Derek kept going. 'I promised Chan that he would have a fully working store where he could do whatever he wanted.' He put it on me!"

Dunst was particularly drawn to Cianfrance's process. "The kind of acting that Derek likes," Dunst says, "is the kind of acting that I like: when it doesn't feel like it's acting."

That doesn't mean that their director's fidelity to realism didn't sometimes strike the actors as borderline absurd.

"I remember because of sound someone put a fake ice cube in my drink," Dunst says, laughing.

"And he lost it," add Tatum. "He shook it. 'This doesn't sound like ice!'"

Yet much of the most extensive work to give "Roofman" veracity was below the surface. Manchester is currently serving out his sentence at Central Prison in Raleigh, North Carolina. He can only make outgoing calls, but Cianfrance estimates that he spoke to him more than a hundred times. That gave Cianfrance an understanding of Manchester's motives and mistakes and turned "Roofman" into a comic but tender examination of misguided materialism.

Approval

"Jeff wrote a crazy movie for himself, and he lived it," Cianfrance says. "What made me ultimately understand what the movie was that Jeff - he was just trying to figure out how to be a dad. He was doing it all for family."

Tatum also spoke frequently with Manchester by phone. Manchester, among other things, expressed his approval of the movie poster, featuring Tatum with a stuffed bear on his shoulders, a floaty around his waist and a gun in his right hand. Tatum says they bonded talking about their children and their hopes for the future. Manchester is scheduled to be released in 2036.

"I got more than I could possibly convey. I just found myself being held almost by him, taken care of," Tatum says. "I didn't grow up bad. But I definitely am a couple bad decisions away from hopefully not being in jail for 45 years. But I think we're all one or two bad decisions away from having a completely different life. Jeff did tell me, 'I got greedy.'"

As he prepped the movie, Cianfrance interviewed everyone he could who was associated with Manchester's escape. Usually, he gave them parts. Wainscott plays a crossing guard in the film. The pastor of the church attended by Manchester, Ron Smith, plays a pawnshop owner. Dunst is interrogated by the police officers who actually interviewed Wainscott.

Cianfrance cast Tatum and Dunst, he says, partly because they are each parents themselves. Dunst spent time with the actors who play her daughters, going shopping and making a meal together.

"It builds layers that people feel when they watch a film," Dunst says. Some things, like being a parent, you can't fake.

"I don't know if I could have done this movie without having my daughter, and specifically my journey with her. I miss her a lot," says Tatum. "That loneliness and wanting for that was something infused in there. I didn't have to create that."

Variety

ANKARA, Turkey: Several high-profile Turkish celebrities were summoned on Wednesday for questioning and blood tests as part of a drugs-related investigation, reports and officials said.

The investigation, led by Istanbul's chief prosecutor, was launched into individuals suspected of "using narcotic or stimulant substances," the prosecutor's office said.

Those summoned include 12 singers, actors in popular television series and social media celebrities, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

The celebrities were not currently under custody and were expected to be freed following blood tests, Anadolu said.

The investigation coincides with a broader



Matiz

crackdown on artists and opposition voices under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Pop singer **Mabel Matiz** is currently facing up to three years in prison over alleged "obscenity" in the lyrics of one of his songs. Prosecutors claim the song violates public morality laws.

The girl-band Manifest is also facing legal action for alleged "indecent acts" during a recent performance. (AP)



LOS ANGELES: Thirty paintings created by the bushy-haired, soft-spoken Bob Ross will soon be up for auction to defray the costs of programming for public television stations suffering from cuts in federal funding.

Ross, a public television stalwart in the 1980s and '90s, "dedicated his life to making art accessible to everyone," said Joan Kowalski, president of Bob Ross Inc. "This auction ensures his legacy continues to support the very medium that brought his joy and creativity into American homes for decades."

Bonhams in Los Angeles will auction three of Ross' paintings on Nov. 11. Other auctions will

follow in London, New York, Boston and online. All profits are pledged to stations that use content from distributor American Public Television.

The idea is to help stations in need with licensing fees that allow them to show popular programs that include "The Best of Joy of Painting," based on Ross' show, "America's Test Kitchen," "Julia Child's French Chef Classics" and "This Old House." Small and rural stations are particularly challenged.

As desired by President Donald Trump, Congress has eliminated \$1.1 billion allocated to public broadcasting, leaving about 330 PBS and 246 NPR stations to find alternative funding sources. Many launched emergency fund drives. Some have been forced to lay off staff and make programming cuts.

The beloved Ross died in 1995 of complications from cancer after 11 years in production with "The Joy of Painting." His how-to program was shown on stations around the U.S. and around the world. The former Air Force drill sergeant known for his calm demeanor and encouraging words enjoyed a resurgence in popularity during the lockdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic. (AP)

Performers learn tricks of terrifying trade at Scary School

Michigan haunted house trains ‘real monsters’

PONTIAC, Mich., Oct 8, (AP): Grotesque makeup, menacing props and intimidating costumes are just one part of a Michigan haunted house’s 25-year-old formula to terrify guests.

It starts by educating the actors looking to provide the most horrifying experience to its visitors. At Scare School, they learn all the tricks of the trade.

Lessons begin weeks before the four-level walk-through scream factory opens to visitors, introducing fresh talent to the get-ups, face paint and unnatural body movements proven to petrify thousands of customers since the turn of the century.

The actors’ report card of sorts is the “Wimp Out Score Board” in Erebus Haunted Attraction’s ground-level lobby, tallying the numbers of visitors who flee before making it through all four levels or who join the “wetters, pukers & fainters” total.

And, yes, they really tally it.

The one-time abandoned parking structure in Pontiac consistently lands on lists of the scariest haunted houses in America. Operations managers and brothers Zac and Brad Terebus said the coaching and training performers receive

isn’t just about what they wear or how loud they can shout.

“Scare School really comes down to the psychology of fear,” Zac Terebus said. “Fear is not an accident. Fear is an art.”

In the weeks before Erebus opened for the Sept. 19-Nov. 2 Halloween season, managers auditioned and hired dozens of scare actors, then coached them to be as frightening as humanly - or rather, supernaturally - possible.

In an upstairs room in early September, Erebus veterans schooled the newbies on the finer points of zombie shuffling and demon shrieking, walking on stilts and wielding a spiked (plastic) club. The new hires also learned about make-up application, costuming, how to get into their roles and personas as well as rules about interacting with the guests.

It’s all part of an effort to bring out their inner fiend, Brad Terebus said.

“Let’s say they’re a lawyer by day,” he said. “They can come here, break their shell off and just release this monster within them.”

Alan Tucker, who portrays a bloodthirsty clown, said scare acting is “therapeutic.”

“You never really think that you can be something else for a couple hours and scare people. But then when you really actually get to do that, it’s so entertaining. It’s so fulfilling,” said Tucker, who is in his second year as a scare actor.

Renee Piehl is in her third year, this time around playing Nyx, based on the Greek goddess of night, who frightens guests waiting in line to enter the haunt.

“They come here to be scared. It’s Halloween. It’s fun,” she said. “We are to be ugly and scary and bloody.”

Plus, the scariest the actors are, the bigger the numbers will get on the Wimp Out Score Board.

The board currently lists 10,711 “wimps” and 1,246 “wetters, pukers & fainters” both cumulative totals since the Terebus’ father and uncle opened the attraction.

“What we have throughout the haunted house, we call them ‘chicken exits.’ They’re actually fire exits,” Zac Terebus said. “But, at any point in the show, if you say, ‘I want out,’ we take you out, we escort you down, you end up here in the exit lobby, you can wait for your group to come on out.

“It’s a competition among our monsters to see who can really scare the pee out of somebody.”



Alan Tucker poses for a portrait at the Erebus Haunted House, Oct. 4, 2025, in Pontiac, Mich. (AP)

Villazón brings singer’s touch to Met opera debut

Villazón directs top operas while still singing

NEW YORK, Oct 8, (AP): Tenor Rolando Villazón was singing the title role in Massenet’s “Werther” in 2006 at Nice, France, when he started thinking about how he would direct the opera.

“I said, ‘oh, this last act is very difficult. He shot himself and keeps singing for 40 minutes.’ And so, what would I do?” he recalled. “And I started inventing, creating for fun a staging.”

Nearly two decades later, Villazón is making his Metropolitan Opera directing debut in Bellini’s “La Sonnambula,” which opened Monday night with a standout cast of Nadine Sierra, Xabier Anduaga and Alexander Vinogradov.

“He is very sensitive to singers,” Sierra said. “Maybe some directors, because they’re not singers or they were never singers, it’s hard for them to really relate to the psychological struggle that some singers, we deal with on stage. We want to make our characters as believable as humanly possible through the actions that we show, but sometimes it’s hard to do that because you also have to sing high notes.”

Villazón grew up in Mexico City, won Plácido Domingo’s Operalia competition in 1999 and made his European debut that year in Massenet’s “Manon” at Genoa, Italy. He debuted at the Met in Verdi’s “La Traviata” in 2003 and gained wide renown when he sang Alfredo with Anna Netrebko’s Violetta in Willy Decker’s austere staging at the 2005 Salzburg Festival.

Vocal problems developed in 2007, causing Villazón to cancel his schedule, and he had surgery in 2009 to remove a cyst from his vocal cords. He developed performance anxiety around 2015 and had another operation in 2018 to relieve acid reflux.

“Two things coincided when I stopped singing for a year in 2009 - and that was I wrote my first novel and I prepared my staging, but both didn’t happen because I was resting,” he said. “Would I have finished my novel? I don’t know. But stage direction for sure that would have happened.”

When Villazón conceived his “Werther” staging, he shared it with Alain Lanceron, then head of tenor’s record label, Virgin Classics. Richard Jones, a director Villazón had worked with, helped him find a theater. After being turned down in Berlin, Villazón won over Serge Dorny, then general director in Lyon and now head of



This image released by the Metropolitan Opera shows soprano Nadine Sierra, (standing), rehearsing with director Rolando Villazón for his new production of Bellini’s ‘La Sonnambula’ in New York on Sept. 23, 2025. (AP)

the Bavarian State Opéra.

Villazón’s “Werther” debuted in 2011, and he directed Donizetti’s “L’Elisir d’Amore” the following year at Baden-Baden, Germany, while also singing Nemorino.

He has gone on to direct Verdi’s “La Traviata,” Donizetti’s “Don Pasquale,” Strauss’s “Die Fledermaus,” Rameau’s “Platée,” Bellini’s “I Puritani” and Rossini’s “Il Barbiere di Siviglia,” and has upcoming productions of Mozart’s “Die Zauberflöte” and Rossini’s “L’Italiana in Algeri.”

His “Sonnambula” unfolds in an icy Alp village within a single set in front of projections and was first seen at Paris’ Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in 2021, then at Nice in 2022 and Dresden, Germany, in 2023. It was to have traveled to the Met in 2023-24 but was postponed because of budget cuts.

“In the staging rehearsals, he was always on the stage with them,” Met general manager Peter Gelb said. “Usually, directors are in the room

with the singers, but they spend a lot of the time watching from a distant seat. He was more in the trenches with the singers than most directors are.”

Villazón rejects the happy ending of Donizetti and librettist Felice Romani. Rather than Amina awakening from sleepwalking in ecstasy when she learns Elvino will marry her, she gives him back his ring and runs off to an independent future. He tweaked the direction for New York, cutting the dancing spirits Amina hallucinates from three to one and adding a globe, a telescope and a newspaper as gifts from Count Rodolfo to show the worldly curiosity she seeks.

“It remains in essence the concept I had thought for it, the concept of a closed society, patriarchal, for sure very religious, where there is a strange woman adopted by a widow,” Villazón said. “She is obliged to follow the rules and to adapt to the way the community behaves for the good of the commu-

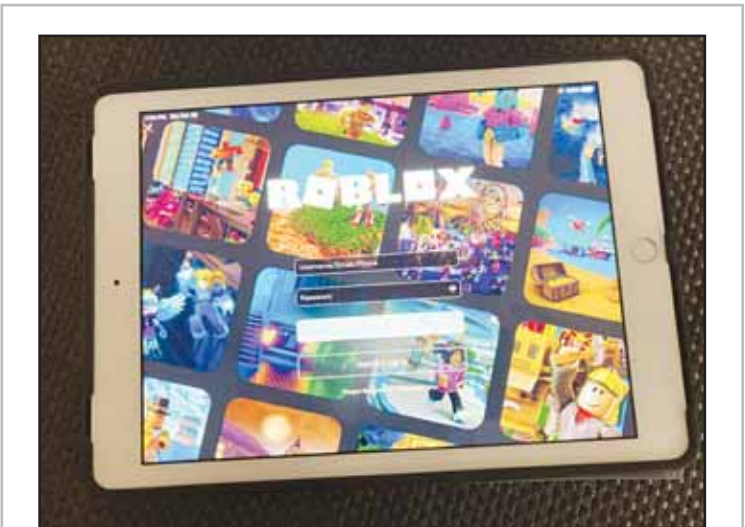
nity, but she still feels this call of the wild.”

Sierra and Anduaga had sung these roles in a Barbara Lutch staging that opened in Madrid in December 2022 and traveled to Barcelona last April before coming to New York to work with Villazón.

“He really understands our situation,” Anduaga said. “He doesn’t want to do anything weird or strange with the body because he knows that all the movements are important, but the singing is the most important thing.”

Villazón learned from his experience with a string of top directors, including Decker, Jones, Robert Carsen, Claus Guth, Christof Loy and Bart Sher.

“Richard Jones told me: ‘You ask something three times,’” Villazón recalled. “If the performer doesn’t do it, either he or she is unable to do it or incapable to do it. In either case, you will not get what you’re asking, so move on and think of something else.”



The gaming platform Roblox is displayed on a tablet, Oct. 30, 2021, in New York. (AP)

‘Predators’ playground

Roblox sued for failing to protect kids online

FRANKFORT, Ky., Oct 8, (AP): Kentucky’s attorney general claimed Tuesday that the online gaming platform Roblox has become a “playground for predators” as he announced a lawsuit accusing the company of lax child safety measures.

The Kentucky suit, filed by his office Monday in a state court, is the latest action alleging that the wildly popular site isn’t doing enough to protect children on its gaming services.

To bolster safeguards for children and teenagers flocking to the site, the company needs to install effective age verifications and content filters, Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman said. Added parental notifications also are needed, he said.

Courtney Norris, a Kentucky mother of three who joined Coleman at a news conference, said she mistakenly viewed Roblox as a safe online gaming choice for her children.

“I came to realize, later than I would like to admit, that it actually is the ‘Wild West’ of the internet, targeted at children,” she said.

The company is facing a growing backlash. The Kentucky suit comes after Louisiana sued the company in August. A suit was filed in Iowa after a 13-year-old girl was allegedly introduced to an adult predator on the platform, then kidnapped and trafficked across multiple states and raped.

Allegations

Roblox on Tuesday pushed back against the allegations.

“We have rigorous safety measures in place from advanced AI models to an expertly trained team of thousands moderating our platform 24/7 for inappropriate content,” the company said in a statement. “No system is perfect and our work on safety is never done. We are constantly innovating our safety systems, including adding 100 new safeguards, such as facial age estimation, this year alone.”

Roblox says it has 111 million daily active users. The company said in an email Tuesday that it implements strict safety defaults for its youngest users. It said the platform’s users under 13 cannot directly message others on Roblox,

outside of games or experiences, and cannot directly message others during games or experiences unless the default setting is changed using parental controls.

The company said it has rigorous text chat filters to block inappropriate words and phrases, attempts to direct under-13 users off the platform and the sharing of personal information such as phone number or address. It does not allow user-to-user image sharing and prohibits sexual conversations, it said.

The Kentucky lawsuit gives a starkly different portrayal of the platform.

Assurances

Despite assurances its site is safe, the company has failed to install basic safety controls, the suit said. Roblox also fails to inform its users and their parents about “dangers inherent” on the platform, it said.

Coleman, a Republican, said the site’s “cartoonish figures and experiences” appeal to children, but he warned that “underneath this cartoonish, innocent veneer is something sinister. The platform has become a playground for predators who seek to harm our children.”

The Kentucky suit alleges that children are exposed to “violent or sexual situations within the Roblox universe, with parents reporting children contacted by strangers using third-party chat apps that function as if they are part of the game.”

Norris said that like many parents, she considered it a safe choice for her children.

“I described it as a ‘fenced-in backyard’ for kids’ gaming,” she said Tuesday. “And that is the genius and the danger I found of Roblox - the illusion of safety it gives parents like me.”

“The reality is, Roblox makes it nearly impossible to police as a parent,” she added.

The suit claims that Roblox’s lax protections violate Kentucky’s Consumer Protection Act and asks a judge to order the company into compliance. The suit seeks penalties of up to \$2,000 for each violation of the consumer protection law.



Egyptian wrestler Ashraf Mahrous celebrates as he pulls a 700-ton ship across the water using only a rope held in his teeth at the marina in the Red Sea resort of Hurghada, Egypt, Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025. (AP)



Egyptian wrestler Ashraf Mahrous celebrates after attempting to pull 20 vehicles at Al Safaa Club in 10th of Ramadan City, outside Cairo, Egypt, Friday, Aug. 1, 2025. (AP)



Egyptian wrestler Ashraf Mahrous pulls a train nearly 10 meters (33 feet) at Ramses Station in Cairo, Egypt, as Guinness World Record observers look, March 13, 2025. (AP)

Egypt’s ‘strongman’ pulling ships, trains and cars in jaw-dropping feats

Ashraf Mahrous is Egypt’s “strongman.”

The Egyptian wrestler known as Kabonga has built his reputation on raw strength and relentless discipline.

From Cairo to Hurghada, he’s become a familiar figure, training daily and performing extraordinary feats that test the limits of human endurance.

Mahrous, 44, has pulled cars and trains - and most recently, two ships weighing over 1,100 tons using only his teeth. Earlier this year, he was recognized for pulling a 279-ton train in Cairo. (AP)

Starving children screaming for food

Aid cuts unleash hunger, death across Myanmar

MAE SOT, Thailand, Oct 8, (AP): Across Myanmar and in the refugee camps along its borders, the suffering unleashed by the United States' gutting of its foreign aid program has been severe and deadly, particularly for children, The Associated Press found.

In interviews with 21 Myanmar refugees, five people trapped in internment camps inside Myanmar and 40 aid workers, medics and researchers, the AP uncovered widespread devastation due to President Donald Trump's dismantling of the US Agency for International Development. Children are screaming for food, safehouses that sheltered dissidents have shuttered and people must forage for hours in the jungle each day to survive.

Here are the key takeaways from AP's investigation, as told through the people who have been impacted:

Mohammed Taher clutched the lifeless body of his 2-year-old son and wept. Ever since his family's food rations stopped arriving at their internment camp in Myanmar in April, the father had watched helplessly as his once-vibrant baby boy weakened, suffering from diarrhea and begging for food.

On May 21, exactly two weeks after Taher's little boy died, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio sat before Congress and declared: "No one has died" because of his government's decision to gut its foreign aid program. Rubio also insisted: "No children are dying on my watch."

That, Taher says, "is a lie."

"I lost my son because of the funding cuts," he says. "And it is not only me - many more children in other camps have also died helplessly from hunger, malnutrition and no medical treatment."

A statement from the State Department that did not address most of AP's questions said the US "continues to stand with the people of Burma," using another name for Myanmar.

"While we continue to provide life-saving aid globally, the United States expects capable countries to increase their contributions where possible," read the statement from the department, which has absorbed the few remaining USAID programs.

Taher is one of 145,000 people forced to live inside squalid, prison-like camps in the state of Rakhine by the ruling military. Most, like Taher, are members of Myanmar's persecuted Rohingya minority, which was attacked by the military in 2017 in what the U.S. declared a genocide.

Kneecapped by the funding cuts, the U.N.'s World Food Program in April severed assistance to 1 million people across Myanmar, including to Taher's family.

After their food rations evaporated, Taher's family meals shrank from three a day to one.

Taher's son, Mohammed Hashim, faded. The clever, caring toddler, who loved playing football and whose cheerful chirps of "Mama" and "Baba"

once filled their shelter, could barely move. Anguished by his son's sobs, Taher tried to find help. But with soldiers banning residents from leaving the camp to find food, and with no money for a doctor, there was nothing Taher could do.

On May 7, Taher and his wife watched their baby take his final breath. Their other children began to scream.

Neighbor Mohammed Foyas, who visited the family after Hashim died and was present for his burial, confirmed the details to the AP.

Asked who is to blame for the loss of his son, Taher is direct: the United States.

"In the camps, we survive only on rations," he says. "Without rations, we have nothing -- no food, no medicine, no chance to live."

Twelve-year-old Mohama squats in the mud, rain battering his rail-thin frame. He plucks worms from the dirt and places them in a ratty plastic cup.

The worms are bait for the fish he hopes to catch for his family. Recently, he says, there hasn't been enough to eat. So, despite the deluge, he grabs his bamboo fishing pole and wades through rushing water as high as his chest.

Many of Myanmar's children have survived the horrors of war only to now find themselves hungry and hurting because of a political decision they don't understand.

Mohama escaped to Thailand with



Ababa Moe, (left), poses for a portrait with her son, Ababa, near their refugee camp in the Tak province of Thailand, Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2025. (AP)

his parents, older brother and two little sisters in 2023 after soldiers attacked their village. He remembers huddling in a bomb shelter, and running alongside hordes of others fleeing for their lives.

Mohama's parents returned to Myanmar to find work, and his sisters eventually joined them. He lives now with his grandparents and teenage brother in a one-bedroom shelter.

After two hours, Mohama holds up his haul: around 10 tiny fish, each less than 3 centimeters (1 inch) long. It's enough for a few mouthfuls.

Still, this is lucky. Some days, he says, he catches half as much.

When the rice runs out at 48-year-old Naung Pate's shelter, panic sets in among her six children. She walls off her own worry and reassures them that she will find them food, though now there is never enough.

"If the U.S. doesn't resume its support, I am worried about my children's survival," she says.

The grandfather slides a knife into the sodden jungle floor, pries loose a

bamboo shoot and places it into a tattered tote bag slung across his bony back. His stomach is empty, his breath ragged and his energy exhausted. But if he stops now, his family could starve.

Mahmud Karmar has been foraging in the jungle along the Thailand-Myanmar border for two hours and has barely collected enough to feed his wife, six children and 6-year-old grandson two meals. He presses his parched lips into the river and guzzles.

"I am hungry," Karmar says, panting. "So I drink the water to get myself full."

For years, a grant by the U.S. State Department provided food and medicine to Karmar and the other Myanmar refugees living in the Thai border camps.

But the ending of that grant on July 31 forced the region's main aid group, The Border Consortium, to terminate food assistance for 85% of camp residents. That has left many like Karmar dependent on the jungle's quickly-dwindling resources to survive.

Karmar didn't just lose his food rations because of the aid cuts -- he lost his job with the International Rescue Committee, which the State Department had, until July 31, funded to run health clinics in the camps. He has also lost 16 kilograms (35 pounds), his 54-kilogram (119-pound) frame now so slight that he has become unrecognizable even to close friends.

"We are almost dying," he says.

Fat metabolism

Fat particles could help treat 'brain disorders'

SYDNEY, Oct 8, (Xinhua): A University of Queensland (UQ) study reveals that neuronal function in the brain is powered by fats alongside sugars, paving the way for treating metabolic and debilitating brain disorders, including Alzheimer's disease.

The study challenged the long-held belief that neurons relied exclusively on glucose to fuel their functions in the brain, according to a statement released Tuesday by the university.

Researchers found that neurons also use fats for fuel as they fire off the signals for human thought and movement.

"Fats are undoubtedly a crucial part of the neuron's energy metabolism in the brain and could be a key to repairing and restoring function when it breaks down," said Merja Joensuu from UQ's Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, who led the study.

Stiffness

Joensuu said that the loss of a particular DDHD2 gene function was known to disturb the brain's fat balance, which ultimately heralded the onset of hereditary spastic paraplegia 54 (HSP54), a disorder that causes progressive stiffness and weakness in the legs.

Researchers found that neurons use small fat molecules, called saturated free fatty acids, produced by DDHD2 for energy, to sustain neuronal communication.

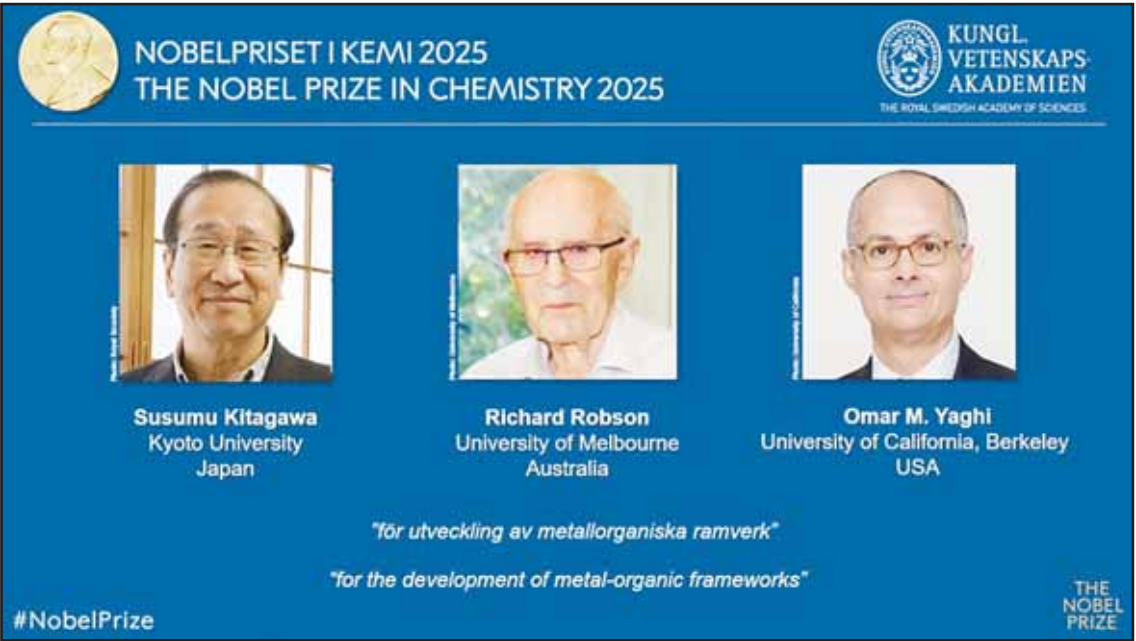
"Understanding the alternative brain fuel could help unlock new and more effective ways to treat energy-related brain disorders and neurodegenerative conditions," Joensuu said.

Untreatable

The research, published in Nature Metabolism with collaboration from researchers in Finland, Norway, and Egypt, laid the groundwork to develop a potential therapeutic for HSP54, and provides hope for other metabolic brain disorders and conditions previously thought untreatable, she said.

"We found that activated fatty acid supplements restored energy production and normal function even in neurons with the faulty DDHD2 gene in animal models, after an increase in sugars had proven ineffective," Joensuu said, calling it "a huge paradigm shift."

The team said they are now preparing preclinical studies to test the therapeutic efficacy and safety of the activated fatty acids ahead of clinical trials.



From left: Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson and Omar Yaghi, winners of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, announced at the Nobel Assembly of the Karolinska Institutet, in Stockholm, Sweden, Wednesday, Oct. 8. (AP)

Nobel discovery echoes Harry Potter's magic bag

Nobel Prize honors three chemists behind climate-fighting technology

STOCKHOLM, Oct 8, (AP): Three scientists won the Nobel Prize in chemistry on Wednesday for their development of metal-organic frameworks that could eventually help reduce pollution and combat climate change. A member of the Nobel committee likened the discovery to Hermione Granger's seemingly bottomless enchanted handbag in the fictional "Harry Potter" series, in that the frameworks may look small from the outside, but are able to hold surprisingly vast quantities within them.

The Nobel Committee said Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson and Omar M. Yaghi were being awarded for "groundbreaking discoveries," saying "some of these may contribute to solving some of humankind's greatest challenges."

From capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere or sucking water out of dry desert air, the trio's new form of molecular architecture can absorb and contain gases inside stable metal organic frameworks.

The frameworks can be compared to the timber framework of a house, and Hermione's famous beaded handbag, in that they are small on the outside but very large on the inside, according to Olof Ramström, a member of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry.

Robson, 88, is affiliated with the University of Melbourne in Australia. Kitagawa, 74, is with Japan's Kyoto University and Yaghi, 60, with the University of California, Berkeley.

When his phone rang on Wednesday, Kitagawa said he answered "rather bluntly, thinking it must be yet one of those telemarketing calls I'm getting a lot recently."

"It was such a big prize so I thought, 'is it really true?'" he recalled during a news conference at Kyoto University.

"When one of the experts came on the phone and congratulated me, I finally thought it was real and felt relaxed."

Kitagawa said the research has been widely recognized in the world of chemistry, but "it is very difficult to gain understanding by the ordinary people, and I'm delighted to be recognized."

Stunned

The 88-year-old Robson, in a phone call with The Associated Press from his home in Melbourne, Australia, said he was "very pleased of course and a bit stunned as well."

"This is a major thing that happens late in life when I'm not really in a condition to withstand it all," he said. "But here we are."

The chemists worked separately but added to each other's breakthroughs, which began in 1989 with Robson.

"Metal-organic frameworks have enormous potential, bringing previously unforeseen opportunities for custom-made materials with new functions," Heiner Linke, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said in a news release.

The committee cited the potential for using the frameworks to separating so-called "forever chemicals" from water.

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, are a group of chemicals that have been around for decades and have now spread into the air, water and soil. They are also referred to as "forever chemicals."

The 2024 chemistry prize was awarded to David Baker, a biochemist at the University of Washington in Seattle, and to Demis Hassabis and John Jumper, computer scientists at Google DeepMind, a British-American artificial intelligence research laboratory based in London.

The three were awarded for discovering powerful techniques to decode and even design novel proteins, the building blocks of life. Their work used advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, and holds the potential to transform how new drugs and other materials are made.

The first Nobel of 2025 was announced Monday. The prize in medicine went to Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Dr. Shimon Sakaguchi in discussions about planetary existence, peripheral immune tolerance.

Tuesday's physics prize went to John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret and John M. Martinis for their research on the weird world of subatomic quantum tunneling that advances the power of everyday digital communications and computing.

Acute shortage

Congo health crisis worsens

KINSHASA, Congo, Oct 8, (AP): Over 200 health facilities in eastern Congo are experiencing shortages of medicines as a result of fighting in the region and a lack of humanitarian funding, the International Committee of the Red Cross said Wednesday.

The Red Cross said it assessed 240 health centers and clinics in North and South Kivu, two provinces where the Rwanda-backed M23 rebels made an unprecedented advance earlier this year, further deepening one of the world's largest humanitarian crises.

The difficulties in crossing front lines in the war-hit regions have prevented health facilities from getting access to medicine, even when it is available, the ICRC said.

"The lives of thousands of people are at stake," due to the shortage of essential medicine against malaria, HIV, tuberculosis, and other diseases, Francois Moreillon, the head of the ICRC's delegation in Congo, said during a news conference Wednesday.

Many humanitarian organizations supporting health facilities in the region have been forced to reduce their work or shutdown because of a lack of funding, he added.

"Currently, more than 80 per cent of health facilities in the Kivu provinces receive no support from humanitarian partners and are only operational thanks to the remarkable commitment of their staff on both sides of the front lines," Moreillon said.

Many health workers have also fled the war-torn regions, leading to staff shortages in almost half of the facilities assessed by the ICRC, according to the organization.

Congo's mineral-rich east has long been battered by fighting involving more than 100 armed groups including the Rwanda-backed M23 rebels. The rebels seized the provincial capitals Goma and Bukavu earlier this year, escalating the decades-old conflict.

The rebels' advance has killed some 3,000 people this year and worsened what was already one of the world's largest humanitarian crises, with around 7 million people displaced. While fighting has largely decreased as a result of peace efforts, there are still clashes and civilians are still being killed.

Plant-based diets offer a win-win for health and planet

Recipe for avoiding 15m deaths, climate disaster is fixing food

NEW YORK, Oct 8, (AP): About 15 million deaths could be avoided each year and agricultural emissions could drop by 15% if people worldwide shift to healthier, predominantly plant-based diets, according to the EAT-Lancet Commission, which brought together scientists worldwide to review the latest data on food's role in human health, climate change, biodiversity and people's working and living conditions.

Their conclusion: Without substantial changes to the food system, the worst effects of climate change will be unavoidable, even if humans successfully switch to cleaner energy.

"If we do not transition away from the unsustainable food path we're on today, we will fail on the climate agenda. We will fail on the biodiversity agenda. We will fail on food security. We'll fail on so many pathways," said study co-author Johan Rockström, who leads the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

The commission's first report in 2019 was regarded as a "really monumental landmark study" for its willingness to take food system reform seriously while factoring in human and environmental health, said Adam Shriver, director of wellness and nutrition at the Harkin Institute for Public Policy and Citizen Engagement.



A worker harvests cabbage March 5, 2025, in Holtville, Calif. (AP)

Key points from the latest report:

The first EAT-Lancet report proposed a "planetary health diet" centered on grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts and legumes. The update maintains that to improve their health while also

reducing global warming, it's a good idea for people to eat one serving each of animal protein and dairy per day while limiting red meat to about once a week. This particularly applies to people in developed nations who disproportionately contribute to climate change and have more choices about the foods they eat.

The dietary recommendations were based on data about risks of preventable diseases like Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease, not environmental criteria. Human and planetary health happen to be in alignment, the researchers said.

Rockström said it may seem "boring" for an analysis to reach the same conclusion six years later, but he finds this reassuring because food science is a rapidly moving field with many big studies and improving analytics.

Food is one of the most deeply personal choices a person can make, and "the health component touches everyone's heart," Rockström said. While tackling global challenges is complicated, what individuals can do is relatively straightforward, like reducing meat consumption without eliminating it altogether.

"People associate what they eat with identity" and strict diets can scare people off, but even small changes help, said Em-

ily Cassidy, a research associate with climate science nonprofit Project Drawdown. She wasn't involved with the research.

The researchers looked beyond climate change and greenhouse gas emissions to factors including biodiversity, land use, water quality and agricultural pollution - and concluded that food systems are the biggest culprit in pushing Earth to the brink of thresholds for a livable planet.

The report is "super comprehensive" in its scope, said Kathleen Merrigan, a professor of food systems at Arizona State University who also wasn't involved with the research. It goes deep enough to show how farming and labor practices, consumption habits and other aspects of food production are interconnected - and could be changed, she said.

"It's like we've had this slow awakening to the role of food" in discussions about planetary existence, Merrigan said.

Changing worldwide diets alone could lead to a 15% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, because the production of meat, particularly red meat, requires releasing a lot of planet-warming gases, researchers concluded. Increased crop productivity, reductions in food waste and other improvements could bump that to 20%, the report said.

Columbus midfielder Nagbe to retire at age 35

Alba announces retirement from soccer at end of Miami’s 2025 playoff run

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., Oct 8, (Agencies): Inter Miami defender Jordi Alba has announced his retirement after a professional career spanning almost two decades.

The 36-year-old former Barcelona and Spain left-back is under contract with Inter Miami until December 2027, but said he will step away at the end of the current MLS season.

“The time has come to close a truly meaningful chapter in my life,” Alba said in a video on Instagram.

“I’ve decided to bring my professional football career to an end at the conclusion of this season. I do so with complete conviction, peace, and happiness.”

Alba, who was released by Barcelona as a teenager, rejoined the Catalan club in 2012 after a successful spell at Valencia.

He was part of the Barcelona side that won six La Liga titles and the 2014-15 Champions League. He was capped 93 times for Spain, winning the 2012 European Championship.

“Jordi has been an exceptional addition to Inter Miami and one of the standout players in Major League Soccer over the past two seasons,” Inter Miami managing owner Jorge Mas said.

“His experience, consistency and attacking contribution have been very important to the club’s success. Beyond the goals and assists, he has been a great asset within the team and an exemplary professional.”

Inter Miami captain Lionel Messi, who played with Alba at Barcelona, was



Inter Miami defender Jordi Alba among those to pay tribute to the Spaniard on social media. “Thanks to you, Jordi. I’m going to miss you so much,” the eight-time Ballon

d’Or winner said. “Who’s going to give me the assists now?”

Neymar, who also shared the Blaugrana dressing room with Alba, was another to express his best wishes.

“It was an honor to be a part of your career,” the Brazilian forward wrote Columbus Crew midfielder Darlington Nagbe plans to retire at the end of the Major League Soccer playoffs, the team announced Tuesday.

The 35-year-old has won four league titles in 15 MLS seasons, with Portland (2015), Atlanta (2018) and Columbus (2020, 2023). He has been the Crew captain since 2020.

His 444 regular-season MLS appearances are fifth behind Nick Rimando (514), Kyle Beckerman (498), Dax McCarty (488) and Kei Kamara (463).

Nagbe scored nine regular-season goals for Portland (2011-17), Atlanta (2018-19) and Columbus (2020-25), plus two in the playoffs.

He had one goal in 25 international appearances, scoring for the United States in a friendly against Ecuador in 2016. Nagbe started in the 2-1 loss at Trinidad and Tobago in 2017 that ended the Americans’ streak of seven straight World Cup appearances.

Born in Liberia, Nagbe left with his family for the U.S. when he was 5 months old, played for Akron and won the 2010 Hermann Trophy as the top men’s college soccer player. He became a U.S. citizen when he was 15.

Knight anchors England to close-fought win over Bangladesh at Women’s WCup



England’s captain Nat Sciver-Brunt plays a shot during the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup match between England and Bangladesh at Barsapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati, India. (AP)

Jordan’s 23XI Racing pushes back NASCAR seeks new mediator

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Oct 8, (AP): NASCAR has asked a federal court for a judicial settlement conference so that an independent judge can mediate the antitrust suit filed by Michael Jordan-owned 23XI Racing and Front Row Motorsports.

The two teams pushed back in their own late Monday night filing that it wants to continue working with mediator Jeffrey Mishkin, the former executive vice president and chief legal officer of the NBA who has been negotiating between the two sides this year.

“Mr. Mishkin has invested a great deal of time learning this case and meeting with the parties,” 23XI and Front Row said in the filing. “Plaintiffs have thus requested that NASCAR continue to engage with them via Mr. Mishkin or to make a settlement offer directly to Plaintiffs’ counsel, but NASCAR has not responded to those requests and instead filed this motion.

The teams argued Mishkin “has significant expertise in complex, sports-related antitrust disputes and has served as an arbitrator or mediator for the international Court of Arbitration for Sport, the America’s Cup, FIFA, and the NFL, among others.”

The teams also argue that “starting over” with a new mediator is “less likely, not more likely, to lead to resolution.”

The dueling motions come as NASCAR seeks a summary judgement to dismiss the case before the scheduled Dec. 1 start of trial. A hearing on that motion is scheduled for Oct. 21.

At issue is the protection of the charter system that is at the heart of NASCAR’s business model and the focal point of the court fight. The charter system is NASCAR’s version of a franchise model. A charter guarantees owners spots in the field, a base amount of revenue each year, and according to NASCAR, has created more than \$1.5 billion in equity value for its teams since 2016.

A year ago, 13 of the 15 teams resigned when they believed two-plus years of negotiations would not lead to a better deal. 23XI, co-owned by Jordan and three-time Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin, and Front Row Motorsports, owned by entrepreneur Bob Jenkins, went to court



In this file photo, team owner Michael Jordan looks on during a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Darlington Raceway, Aug. 31, 2025, in Darlington, S.C. (AP)

instead.

For months, the other 13 teams have privately complained that the lawsuit is creating uncertainty over the future of NASCAR. Mishkin has made no progress toward a settlement and NASCAR now wants a federal judge other than U.S. District Judge Kenneth Bell, who is presiding over the case, to hear both sides and advise on a resolution.

Most of the top teams in NASCAR last week submitted declarations calling for a settlement and protection of the charter system, which NASCAR noted in its Monday night filing to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina.

Both sides have shown a willingness to talk, but no progress has been made. Through a judicial settlement conference, NASCAR hopes to bring in a judge who can help direct the talks and offer insight into how a jury might interpret the complex NASCAR antitrust case.

The court must approve NASCAR’s request.

All sides have said they are open to settlement, including Jordan, who also added after an August hearing he was willing to take it to trial if necessary.

“I look forward to going down with the fire. If I have to fight this to the end, for the betterment of the sport, I will,” he said outside federal court. “We’ve always been open to a settlement. Always have been. We’ve never taken that off the table.”

More world records broken at worlds

FORDE, Norway, Oct 8, (Xinhua): Song Kuk Hyang extended the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea women’s team’s winning streak by setting three new world records in the 69kg category on the sixth day of the IWF World Championships.

Song set world records with her second lifts in both snatch and clean and jerk, then declined her final attempts, achieving a new total world record of 120kg-150kg-270kg.

Colombia’s Julieth Rodriguez placed second with a total of 241kg, lifting 110 in the snatch and 131 in the clean and jerk, while Bahrain’s Ingrid Vanesa Segura took third with 107 and 134 for the same total. Chen Wen Hui of Chinese Taipei earned the bronze medal in the clean and jerk in the B Group with 132 and finished fifth overall.

DPRK women have now swept all five categories in 48kg, 53kg, 58kg, 63kg, and 69kg.

In the men’s 88kg category, Colombia’s Yeison Lopez lift two world records in snatch at 177kg and total at 387kg, becoming the first champion from the Americas in Forde. He ranked second in the clean and jerk with 210kg, while DPRK’s Ro Kwang Ryol topped the event with a world record 215kg.

GUWAHATI, India, Oct 8, (AP): Heather Knight scored 79 not out off 111 balls as England beat Bangladesh by four wickets at the Women’s Cricket World Cup.

Knight’s half-century rescued England from a precarious position of 78-5 as the Bangladesh spinners piled on the pressure.

Charlie Dean contributed 27 not out to the 79-run seventh-wicket partnership as Knight helped her side to a second consecutive victory in the tournament. Wrist spinner Fahima Khatun picked 3-16 in 10 overs for Bangladesh, which had been bowled out for 178 runs after Nat Sciver-Brunt won the toss for England.

Linsey Smith led the English spinners again, picking 2-33, while left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone took 3-24 in 10 overs.

The win puts England top of the points table after beating South

Africa in its opening game. It next plays co-host Sri Lanka in Colombo.

Bangladesh is fourth and plays New Zealand at the same venue on Friday.

Put into bat, Bangladesh struggled to get going against England’s spin as Smith and Lauren Bell struck early to leave them at 25-2.

Shobana Mostary scored 60 off 108 balls, with eight fours, and put on 34 off 60 with opener Sharmin Akhtar, who scored 30 off 52 balls.

But Dean struck twice in the middle overs as Bangladesh slipped to 108-5 and Ecclestone then bowled Khatun for seven and had Nahida Akter caught for one. She had earlier dismissed Sharmin Akhter in the 16th over.

Rabeya Khan hit 43 not out off 27 balls to rescue Bangladesh from 130-7. She hit six fours and a six to help the score past 175.

In reply, England lost its way early on as medium pacer Marufa Akter struck twice. Tammy Beaumont was out lbw for 13, as was



England’s Heather Knight, right, and England’s Charlotte Dean celebrate after winning the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup match against Bangladesh at Barsapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati, India. (AP)

Amy Jones for one. Knight then added 40 off 73 balls with Sciver-Brunt, who scored 32.

Argentina boss Scaloni says World Cup squad still open

MIAMI, Oct 8, (Xinhua): Argentina manager Lionel Scaloni said Tuesday that places in his 2026 World Cup squad were still open as the Albiceleste prepares for friendlies against Venezuela and Puerto Rico.

He said the matches would be used to test new players ahead of the tournament in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

“Naturally, we are going to try to give a chance to new players, to see if they can get on board,” he said ahead of Friday’s clash against Venezuela at Hard Rock Stadium. “That is the idea - to use these matches to try different players.” The reigning World Cup champions will have three days to recover from that match before facing Puerto Rico at Soldier Field in Chicago. While admitting most of his World Cup squad was already settled, Scaloni said there could be late changes, as there were before the 2022 tournament in Qatar.

“You never know, because even though we have the base, we don’t know what might happen,” he said. “We have the experience of the last World Cup, when players dropped out at the last moment. It’s true that most of the squad is settled, but we are open

to whatever may come.

“New players have come in now and will keep coming if we believe it is appropriate.” Argentina earned its place in next year’s edition of football’s showpiece tournament by topping the South American qualifying group.

Scaloni said all of the team’s pre-World Cup matches would be treated seriously by his squad, stressing that no match involving Argentina is truly a friendly. “We feel that every time there is an international match - whether official or friendly - provides a unique opportunity,” he said. “What lies ahead is very important, and a lot is at stake. We are going to give our all.”

Interim Peru manager Manuel Barreto said Monday that he would use his team’s friendly against Chile to test new players with a view to prepare for the 2030 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

Among the uncapped players named in Peru’s squad for Friday’s clash at Estadio Bicentenario in Santiago are midfielder **Felipe Chavez**, defender

Anderson Villacorta, goalkeeper **Pedro Diaz**, left-back **Cristian Carbajal** and forward **Juan Pablo Goicochea**.

“We have some great players who we already know but the reality is that we failed to qualify for the [2026] World Cup and that means we have to expand our universe of players,” Barreto told reporters.

“The idea is to give the manager who starts the next cycle an idea of players he can count on.” Barreto was appointed as the caretaker manager in September after Oscar Ibanez was sacked when Peru failed to qualify for next year’s World Cup in the **United States, Mexico and Canada**.

The 43-year-old insisted the process of revamping the squad would be gradual to avoid rushing in young players before they are ready.

“It’s not about putting players in just for the sake of it,” he said. “It’s about making sure they are supported and protected so that they can succeed.” The [Peruvian football federation] has a need and a transition that I have to lead, and I am going to do it the same way I have taken on every challenge in my life, with courage, professionalism and a lot of passion,” he added.



सत्यमेव जयते
Embassy of India
Kuwait

Advertisement for recruitment of Arabic Interpreter (01 Post)

Embassy of India, Kuwait invites application from suitable candidates for the local post of Arabic Interpreter in the Embassy.

Qualifications Required: Bachelor's degree or diploma in Arabic Translation from a recognized university. Fluent in both English and Arabic (speak, read, and write). Knowledge of Hindi and/or another Indian regional language is desirable. Proficient in MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and social media platforms. Typing proficiency in both English and Arabic.

Additional Requirements: Must hold valid Kuwaiti residency (transferable). Between 25 and 45 years of age. Minimum of 5 years of relevant experience in a diplomatic, international, or reputed organization.

Emoluments: Starting Salary: KD 850/- + COLA (14.5%).

Interested candidates are invited to submit a covering letter, Curriculum Vitae (CV), copy of educational certificates and a valid Civil ID/Resident Permit and email admnuwait@mea.gov.in and CC.admnuwait@outlook.com with the subject line: "Application for Local Arabic Interpreter". The deadline for submission is 25th October 2025. For further details may kindly visit to the Embassy's website: <https://indembkwt.gov.in/index.php>.

Okiki, Al-Rashidi & Al-Ansari back for Al-Tadamon

Al-Arabi, Burgan draw in warm-up ahead of Zain League resumption

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Al-Arabi and Burgan played to a 1-1 draw in a friendly match at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium, as both teams continue preparations ahead of the resumption of the Zain Premier League and Zain First Division League.

Portuguese coach Marco Alves rotated his squad, giving playing time to a large number of players to ensure readiness for Al-Arabi's upcoming clash with Al-Salmiya on October 19 in the fifth round of the Premier League.

Al-Arabi currently sits third in the league standings with 8 points, just one point behind second-placed Al-Salmiya and two points shy of leaders Kuwait Club. League action has been paused since September 28 due to the international break, which continues until October 14.

In another friendly, Al-Tadamon and Al-Nasr also ended in a 1-1 draw at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium. Al-Nasr, opened the scoring through striker Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi, before French forward Jonathan Bamba equalized for Al-Tadamon.



Yousef Majed attempts to take the ball from a Burgan defender.

Al-Tadamon welcomed back Nigerian striker Afolabi Okiki from injury, alongside forward Hamed Al-Rashidi and midfielder Talal Al-Ansari, return-

ing from previous absences. With their return, Al-Tadamon's squad is now fully fit, ending a challenging period affected by injuries to key players.

Kuwait Club keeps perfect record in volleyball league

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Kuwait Club continued its dominance at the top of the Volleyball Federation League standings with a 3-1 victory over Burgan at the Volleyball Federation Hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex. The set scores were 25-21, 23-25, 25-22, 26-24. This win came during the eighth round of the championship.

Meanwhile, Al-Shabab secured a 3-0 win over Al-Nasr, with set scores of 25-20, 25-13, 25-18, reinforcing its position as a strong contender in the tournament.

League standings:
Kuwait club – 12 points (perfect record)
Kazma – 9 points
Al-Shabab – 8 points
Al-Yarmouk – 6 points
Al-Qadsia and Burgan – 5 points each
Al-Arabi – 2 points
Al-Sulaibikhat – 1 point
Al-Nasr – 0 points
Kuwait SC dominated the match



Abdullah Jassim battles Burgan's tough defense during the match.

against Burgan, who offered a strong challenge, as reflected in the set scores. However, the experience of Kuwait SC's squad, led by captain Abdullah Jassim, ensured the win, keeping the team unbeaten at the top. Burgan has now won only one match and lost

three. Al-Shabab, meanwhile, continues to impress as the dark horse of the league, winning three of four matches so far, with victories over Al-Arabi, Al-Sulaibikhat, and Al-Nasr, and their only loss coming against Kuwait Club.

Lyon stuns Arsenal



Benfica's Anna Gasper, left, fights for the ball with Juventus' Emma Stølen Godø during the Women's Champions League soccer match between Juventus FC W and S.L. Benfica at the Allianz Stadium in Turin, Italy. (AP)

Barcelona thrashes Bayern

LONDON, Oct. 8, (AP): Defensive mistakes cost Arsenal again as it kicked off its defense of the Women's Champions League title with a 2-1 home loss to Lyon.

Alessia Russo gave Arsenal an early lead before Melchie Dumornay's quick double turned the match around for record eight-time winner Lyon in the first round of matches of the new-look tournament.

After the men switched from a group phase to a league-based format last season, the Women's Champions League made the move, too.

Barcelona, which lost to Arsenal in the final last season, thrashed Bayern Munich 7-1 in one of three other matches on Tuesday.

Arsenal had a tricky start to the domestic season and failed to win its previous three matches but it took the lead in the seventh minute against Lyon thanks to two of its European Championship-winning players.

Pure persistence from Beth Mead saw her force her way into the area, drawing several players before laying it off to England teammate Russo to fire across into the bottom right corner.

Arsenal gifted the visitors the equalizer in the 18th minute when Daphne van Domselaar controlled a back pass but played it straight to Dumornay. The Arsenal goalkeeper thought she had redeemed herself by saving the attempt but Dumornay



Arsenal's Frida Maanum, left, and OL Lyonnes' Lindsey Heaps battle for the ball during the Women's Champions League soccer match between Arsenal and OL Lyonnes at Meadow Park, Borehamwood, England. (AP)

slotted the rebound past her and into an empty net.

A defensive lapse cost Arsenal again five minutes later, allowing Dumornay to curl into the top right corner.

Lyon lost to Arsenal in last season's semifinals.

The 18-team league phase ends in December. Teams that finish first to fourth in the standings advance directly to the quarterfinals. Those ranked Nos. 5 to 12 go to a knockout playoff round. The bottom six teams are eliminated.

Substitute Clàudia Pina returned from injury and scored a late double to add gloss to the scoreline for Barcelona.

Pina missed Barcelona's last league match with a thigh injury but she was brought on early in the second half. By that point Barcelona was already 4-1 up and Ewa Pajor extended that advantage moments later with her second of the night.

Two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas scored Barcelona's opener with a sublime, curled finish and also weighed in with two assists.

Esmee Brugts and Salma Paralo netted Barcelona's other goals, either side of Klara Bühl's strike for Bayern.

Juventus defender Cecilia Salvai marked the 10th anniversary of her debut in the Women's Champions League with her first two goals in

the competition as her team came from behind to beat Benfica 2-1 in the early match.

Lucia Alves' scored the first goal of the revamped competition in the sixth minute, finishing off Nycole Raysla's cross with an emphatic close-range strike.

However, Juventus took control of the match from that point, driven by a lively performance from Barbara Bonansea down the right.

And the veteran Italy international was key to Juve's equalizer in the 22nd minute, beating two players in the area before lifting the ball across for Salvai to head past Lena Pauels.

It was Salvai's first goal in the competition - 10 years to the day after making her Women's Champions League debut for Verona.

Juventus had numerous chances to take the lead and Bonansea also had a goal ruled out for offside shortly before halftime.

The Bianconere snatched the win in the 86th minute when a corner was flicked on and Salvai stuck out a leg to volley it into the back of the net.

European debutants OH Leuven fought back from two goals down to draw 2-2 at Paris FC.

Paris appeared to be in command after a dominant first half where it went 2-0 up inside 23 minutes through Daphne Corboz and Clara Mateo.

However, Kim Everaerts pulled one back at the start of the second half and Sara Pusztai netted the equalizer in the 62nd.

Leuven is the first Belgian team to make the league phase or group stage of the competition.

Stars outshine Mooseheads in Kuwait Ice Hockey League

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Stars strengthened their position at the top of the Kuwait Ice Hockey) standings after earning their fourth straight win, defeating Mooseheads 15-5 to close out the first round of the competition, which features five teams. The victory lifted Stars' total to 12 points.

Stars dominated the game – held the night before last at the Kuwait Winter Games Club Arena, the league's organizing venue – displaying clear superiority in attack. Last season's runners-up produced a commanding performance in their quest to reclaim the league title they lost two years ago. Despite a determined effort from Mooseheads to stage a comeback, Stars' experience and composure sealed the result.

Defending champions Warriors currently occupy second place, followed by Ice Stars in third, an impressive showing in their debut season.

League matches will continue with two games per week until the tournament con-



Highlights from the Stars vs. Mooseheads match.

cludes in March next year, when the team with the highest points total will be crowned champion.

Starc returns, Renshaw in as Aussies prep for India series

BRISBANE, Australia, Oct 8, (AP): Matt Renshaw has been called into Australia's one-day international cricket squad at the expense of fellow Queensland batter Marnus Labuschagne for a white-ball series against India starting Oct. 19.

Mitchell Starc will also return to the ODI squad after being rested for recent series as the Australians prepare for a home series against India - three ODIs and five Twenty20 internationals - and the Ashes test series against England.

Cricket Australia announced the ODI and T20 squads Tuesday, with Mitchell Marsh leading both teams. The Australians are coming off a series win in New Zealand, where Marsh scored his first T20 international century.

With Labuschagne struggling for form, Cricket Australia said Renshaw was selected following "prolific" one-day performances for Australia A and Queensland state. Renshaw has played 14 tests for Australia - but none since early 2023 - and is on the cusp of an ODI debut.

Selector George Bailey said allrounder Cameron Green would play in the ODIs against India but skip the T20s to prepare

for the Ashes.

Glenn Maxwell is still sidelined with an injured wrist, while Josh Inglis will return from a leg injury for the series.

"There will be some management through the back end of the series (against India) as individuals prepare for the summer through Sheffield Shield cricket," Bailey said. "The majority of the T20 squad will remain together as it's an important period in the build towards the World Cup next year, however, we're trying to strike a balance to ensure we simultaneously prepare for the test series ahead."

ODI squad: Mitch Marsh (captain), Xavier Bartlett, Alex Carey, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Mitchell Owen, Matthew Renshaw, Matthew Short, Mitchell Starc, Adam Zampa.

T20 squad: Mitch Marsh (captain), Sean Abbott, Xavier Bartlett, Tim David, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Mitchell Owen, Matthew Short, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa.

Best of the Rest

Huijsen out of Spain qualifiers: Real Madrid defender Dean Huijsen has been dropped from Spain's squad for World Cup qualifiers because of a muscle injury.

He will be replaced by Athletic Bilbao player Aymeric Laporte, the Spanish soccer federation said Wednesday.

The federation said Huijsen reported to the squad on Monday feeling muscle discomfort and medical tests conducted on Wednesday showed he has a muscle injury. Madrid said Huijsen has been diagnosed with an injury to the soleus muscle in his left leg.

He had played the full Spanish league match against Villarreal on Saturday, which Madrid won 3-1.

Spain coach Luis de la Fuente is already missing several players because of injuries, including midfielder Rodri and forward Lamine Yamal.

Spain hosts Georgia on Saturday and Bulgaria three days later. (AP)

Puado suffers knee injury: Spanish La Liga club Espanyol has suffered a significant setback on Wednesday with forward Javi Puado sustaining a knee injury.

"Medical tests have shown that Javi Puado has suffered a sprain in his right knee," informed the official club website, adding the player "was injured in training this Wednesday" and that "his progress will determine his availability." Confirmation of the injury came after Puado was seen on crutches at Espanyol's training ground alongside his girlfriend and the club's director of medical services.. (Xinhua)

ARAB TIMES

Kuwait's No.1 English Newspaper

For Subscriptions and Complaints

Please Call

51508991

51526559

NEWS



England's Dan Burn, from left, Declan Rice, Jordan Henderson, Ollie Watkins, Jarrod Bowen, Bukayo Saka and Morgan Rogers during a training session at St George's Park, Burton upon Trent, England. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait tests form against World Cup-qualified Uzbekistan



Kuwait players in high spirits ahead of a friendly against Uzbekistan.

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

TASHKENT, Oct 8: Kuwait will take on Uzbekistan in a friendly match at 4 p.m. today at the Olympic Stadium in Tashkent.

The encounter comes as part of Kuwait's preparations during the international break. The team will also play a second friendly on Tuesday against Morocco's local national side in Dubai, as it gears up for the Arab Cup playoff clash with Mauritania on November 25. The Arab Cup, organized under the supervision of FIFA, will kick off in Doha early next December.

Head coach Helio Sousa has named 26 players for

the current training camp: Saud Al-Junaie, Khaled Al-Rashidi, Saud Al-Hoshan, Abdulrahman Ajaj, Fahad Al-Hajri, Mishari Ghanem, Khaled Sabah, Mohammed Khaled, Rashid Al-Dosari, Khaled Ibrahim, Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi, Nasser Al-Enezi, Hassan Hamdan, Khaled Al-Murshid, Jarrah Al-Hleili, Rida Hani, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Athbi Shehab, Sultan Al-Enezi, Fawaz Ayedh, Bader Tareq, Talal Al-Qaisi, Youssef Nasser, Moath Al-Asimah, Salman Al-Awadhi, and Ahmed Al-Zanki.

Tonight's match will mark Sousa's second game in charge, following the 2-2 draw with Syria in last September's friendly held in Doha.

The team began its camp in Kuwait at the end of September, completing five training sessions

before heading to Tashkent on Monday. Sousa introduced a varied training schedule, combining morning fitness sessions at a health institute for selected players with evening tactical drills focused on instilling his playing philosophy. The Portuguese coach emphasized discipline, precision, and tactical understanding as key aspects of the team's preparation.

Meanwhile, Uzbekistan, fresh from securing qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, will use the friendly to test new players. Under newly appointed Italian coach Fabio Cannavaro, the hosts aim for a strong performance and morale-boosting win in his first match at the helm of the national team.

De Minaur wins 50th match of the season

Sabalenka survives scare

SHANGHAI, Oct. 8, (Agencies): Seventh seed Alex de Minaur defeated Portugal's Nuno Borges 7-5, 6-2 on Wednesday to advance to the quarterfinals of the Shanghai Masters.

This was their first career meeting. The victory marks de Minaur as the third player this season to record 50 tour-level wins after Carlos Alcaraz and Taylor Fritz.

Daniil Medvedev advanced by beating American rising star Learner Tien 7-6 (6), 6-7 (1), 6-4 after a lengthy and challenging match.

Canada's 12th seed Felix Auger-Aliassime reached his first Shanghai quarterfinal by defeating the eighth seed Lorenzo Musetti of Italy. He also made history as the first Canadian to reach the quarterfinals at an ATP Masters event.

Auger-Aliassime will next face Frenchman Arthur Rinderknech, who beat Czech player Jiri Lehecka 6-3, 7-6.

Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka overcame an early scare to beat unseeded Rebecca Sramkova 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 at the Wuhan Open on Wednesday.

The defending champion has had an amazing run in Wuhan - her record is 18-0 while winning titles in 2018, 2019 and 2024.

The U.S. Open champion Sabalenka broke her 68th-ranked opponent in the opening game of the final set and went on before converting her second match point to win in almost two hours.

Sabalenka started her rally by breaking her 68th-ranked opponent in fourth



Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada reaches for the ball during a men's singles match against Lorenzo Musetti of Italy in the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center, in Shanghai, China. (AP)

game of the second set and jumped to a 4-1 lead. She saved four break points in the seventh game.

She faces next No. 16 seed Liudmila Samsonova who rallied to beat 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin 3-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Sramkova broke Sabalenka twice in the opening set.

Sabalenka, who took a Greek holiday after her second consecutive win at Flushing Meadows, withdrew from last week's China Open, another WTA 1000-level event.

Jessica Pegula was twice broken while serving for the match in the third set but recovered to edge Hailey Baptiste in a tight tiebreaker and advance.

Sixth-seeded Pegula beat her fellow American 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (6) on her seventh match point to reach the third round.

Public Authority for Sports inaugurates Kuwait Oil Company Schools League



Highlights from the Kuwait Oil Company Schools League press conference.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Public Authority for Sports officially launched the first edition of the Kuwait Oil Company Schools League for middle and high school students, both boys and girls, during a press conference at the Regency Hotel. The event was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Education, the acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sports, and officials from Kuwait Oil Company.

Speaking at the conference, Bashar Abdullah, acting Director General

of the Public Authority for Sports, described the league's launch as a long-awaited milestone and a dream realized. He emphasized that sports are more than just games - they are a school of discipline, teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship.

"The launch of the schools league is a significant step toward our vision of making sports an integral part of young people's lives."

Bashar Abdullah also highlighted that investing in school sports is the best investment in the nation's future, as it provides the foundation for devel-

oping local teams and national squads across all age groups.

He expressed gratitude to all partners, particularly the Ministry of Education, represented by Minister Eng. Said Jalal Al-Tabatabaei, and Kuwait Oil Company, represented by Mohammed Khalifa Abduljaleel, Vice President of Planning and Innovation. Their support through the joint cooperation protocol between the Ministry, Kuwait Oil Company, and the Public Authority for Sports has been instrumental in promoting and supporting school sports activities.

KFA signs French Super Cup hosting deal

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yusuf Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Kuwait Football Association (KFA), signed a contract on Tuesday with Arnaud Rouger, Chairman of France's Professional Football League (LFP), to host the French Super Cup between Paris Saint-Germain and Marseille on January 8, 2026.

The signing took place during a press conference attended by French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin and Marc Biolley, head of Matchworld Football, the company organizing the event.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yusuf said that hosting the French Super Cup is in line with directives from Kuwait's political leadership to organize major international sporting events. A delegation from the LFP recently visited Kuwait to review preparations, and they were impressed

with the facilities at Jaber Al-Ahmad Stadium, as well as Jaber Al-Mubarak and Ali Sabah Al-Salem stadiums.

He added that the match carries global significance, featuring Paris Saint-Germain, holders of the French League and UEFA Champions League titles, and Marseille, known for its technically skilled squad.

Details regarding ticketing and sales outlets will be announced soon. In addition, the KFA has partnered with Kuwait Airways to provide special offers for fans worldwide and attract the largest possible audience.

Arnaud Rouger praised Kuwait's bid, noting that the KFA submitted the best proposal to host the match. He also confirmed that the French Football Federation will appoint the referees, given the high-profile nature of the fixture.

Fighters from Germany, Philippines taking part

Kuwait to host international boxing championship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Mishaal Al-Fajee, the World Boxing Council (WBC) representative in Kuwait, announced that all preparations are complete for an international boxing championship set for Saturday evening at Al-Zumurruda Hall. The tournament will feature top professional boxers from Germany, the Philippines, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Tunisia. Al-Fajee, who also heads Kuwait Sport Promotion, invited boxing and martial arts enthusiasts to attend what promises to be an exciting evening of the noble art of boxing, featuring evenly matched bouts between champions and international title contenders.

Speaking to the press, Al-Fajee



Mishaal Al-Fajee, the World Boxing Council representative in Kuwait.

said the event is organized in collaboration with the WBC, with the goal of enhancing the technical level of boxing and developing the skills and physical abilities of Kuwaiti athletes. He added: "We hope that hosting international sporting events like this will promote sports culture, encourage young athletes to compete, and open the path for them to pursue professional careers under internationally recognized rules and standards."

Al-Fajee also noted that the championship is held under the full supervision and support of the World Boxing Council (WBC), highlighting its significance in the international boxing calendar.

Best of the Rest

Wuhan advances in Champions Cup: Wuhan Jiangda WFC advanced to the next round of the inaugural FIFA Women's Champions Cup here on Wednesday after defeating Auckland United FC 1-0.

The home side, winner of the AFC Women's Champions League, displayed composure and control over the champion of this year's OFC Women's Champions League. Wuhan pressed early, nearly taking the lead in the 5th minute when Song Duan's close-range shot forced a spill from Auckland goalkeeper Hannah Mitchell. Wuhan continued to dominate possession in the first half, creating several chances but failing to convert.

After the break, Wuhan intensified its attack. In the 73rd minute, Wuhan native Wang Shuang found the net, only for the goal to be ruled offside. Wuhan kept pressing and was finally rewarded in the 87th minute when Kim Hyeri slipped the ball to Jiang Chenjing, who calmly slotted home the winner.

Auckland United launched a late surge during four-minute stoppage time, but Wuhan's defense held firm, with its goalkeeper making several key saves to preserve the lead.. (Xinhua)

Ghana president honors UDS team: Ghana's president John Dramani Mahama on Tuesday presented a cash reward of 500,000 Ghana cedis (40,000 U.S. dollars), to the University for Development Studies (UDS) for winning the FISU University Football World Cup in China. Making the donation to the team, President Mahama commended the university for its feat, calling it part of his "reset Ghana" agenda.

"I would like to commend all those who made this team win the University Football World Cup, and we are all proud of you, as this is part of the reset agenda," said Mahama, adding that the government is working to strengthen youth and university sports systems to ensure that talented students or athletes are identified, developed and supported to reach professional levels. (Xinhua)

Ghana's UDS defeated defending champion Paulista University of Brazil 2-1 to win the FISU University World Football World Cup in northeast China's Dalian last month.

UEFA president calls for maintaining open competition amid new Super League reports

ROME, Oct 8, (AP): UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin called for maintaining open competition in European soccer on Wednesday following reports over new meetings with the company behind the failed Super League project.

"Europe sets standards in world football," Ceferin said during a speech at the general assembly of the European Football Clubs - formerly the European Club Association - which represents around 800 teams across the continent. "And precisely for that reason, we see attempts from outside to reshape the game."

The Spanish newspaper Mundo Deportivo recently reported that UEFA had met on several occasions with Madrid-based A22-Sports Management - which organized the failed Super League launch - plus Real Madrid and Barcelona.

"Change is part of football's story. We know this very well. But lasting value comes only from unity, from balance, and from reforms that strengthen everyone, not just a few," Ceferin said. "UEFA will never and would never organize a competition for 12 clubs only."

In 2021 a group of 12 of Europe's most storied clubs announced plans to create a new league that would have effectively replaced the Champions League - UEFA's and Europe's elite club tournament. The controversial plans, which were met with fury from fans and politicians, would have seen 15 top clubs protected from relegation and provided guaranteed entry of teams regardless of their success in national competitions.

The Court of Justice of the European Union ruled in 2023 that UEFA and FIFA acted contrary to EU com-

petition law by blocking plans for a Super League. So late last year, A22 launched a revised breakaway proposal that would feature 96 teams across four leagues with promotion, relegation and exit from the competition - as well as a women's tournament.

"UEFA wants that the dream stays alive," Ceferin said. "We will make sure that our club football is inclusive. And that everybody has a chance to win the best competitions. ... Football is not just about balance sheets. It's not just entertainment. It's life in our communities. It's the streets, the clubs, and

the fans who shape it. And if we pull it too far away from those roots, we risk breaking it."

Ceferin's comments came two days after UEFA reluctantly said it would not oppose the tradition-busting plans for Barcelona to play a league game in Miami and for AC Milan to feature in Australia amid fierce opposition from fan groups across the continent.

Glenn Micalleff, the European Union's top sports official, alluded to a reaffirmation by UEFA to continue blocking breakaway proposals.

"In Europe, we don't believe in closed leagues," Micalleff said. "That is not the way we do sport. Our principles ensure that success is earned on the pitch and is not guaranteed by privilege. So UEFA was right to take a first stand on this. And it was right again in its decision this week."



Ceferin